

Cornelius Rufus Nelson
25 Bouvere Street
Fleet Street

THE

Nonconformist.

"THE DISSIDENCE OF DISSENT AND THE PROTESTANTISM OF THE PROTESTANT RELIGION."

VOL. XX.—NEW SERIES, No. 758.]

LONDON: WEDNESDAY, MAY 9, 1860.

PRICE UNSTAMPED .. 5d.
STAMPED 6d.

THE WEEKLY TRACT SOCIETY.

The Twelfth ANNUAL MEETING of this Society will be held (P.V.) on THURSDAY EVENING, 10th inst., in the LOWER ROOM, EXETER HALL, STRAND.

ROBERT BAXTER, Esq., will take the Chair at Seven o'clock.

Several Clergymen and Gentlemen are expected to address the Meeting.

J. FRASER SIMPSON, Secretary.

EVANGELICAL CONTINENTAL SOCIETY, 7, BLOMFIELD-STREET.

The ANNUAL MEETING of the above Society will be held on WEDNESDAY EVENING, May 10th, 1860, in UNION CHAPEL, ISLINGTON.

The Chair will be taken at half past Six o'clock precisely, by EDWARD BAINES, ESQ., M.P.

Messrs. G. Monod, Naville, Bersier, and other Gentlemen are expected to address the Meeting.

Admission will be without Tickets.

B. H. COWPER, Secretary.

CHRISTIAN VERNACULAR EDUCATION SOCIETY FOR INDIA.

The Second ANNUAL MEETING will be held at FREE-MASONS' HALL, GREAT QUEEN STREET, on THURSDAY, May 17th, 1860.

The Chair to be taken by the Right Hon. the EARL of SHAFTESBURY, at Two o'clock.

Colonel Herbert B. Edwards, C.B., of Peshawar; J. C. Marshman, Esq.; Rev. T. R. Bicks; Rev. J. Hamilton, D.D.; Rev. J. Mullens, Missionary from India, and others, will address the Meeting.

J. H. TITCOMB, M.A., Secretary.

Tickets may be obtained at the Society's Office, 5, Robert-street, Adelphi; Messrs. Seeley's, Hanover-street, Fleet-street, and Islington-green; Messrs. Hatchard, Piccadilly; Messrs. Nisbet, Berners-street; Messrs. Ward and Co., Paternoster-row; Messrs. Jackson and Walford, St. Paul's churchyard; and the Offices of the Church Missionary, London Missionary, Wesleyan Missionary, Baptist Missionary, and Religious Tract Societies.

ANNIVERSARY of HIGHGATE CONGREGATIONAL CHAPEL.

The ANNIVERSARY SERVICES of the above CHAPEL will be held as follows:—

On TUESDAY, the 15th day of May, 1860, a SOCIAL MEETING will take place in the LARGE SCHOOL-ROOM beneath the Chapel. Tea at Five o'clock precisely. Tickets 1s. each.

On the same Evening, at Seven o'clock, the Rev. JAMES PARSONS, of York, will preach in the Chapel.

On THURSDAY, the 17th day of May, 1860, the Rev. THOMAS BINNEY, of London, will deliver his LECTURE on "SAINT PAUL," in the Chapel.

Tickets of Admission, 1s. each. Reserved Seats, 2s. each. To be obtained at the Doors.

On SATURDAY, the 20th day of May, 1860, the Rev. JOSHUA VINAY, Minister of the Chapel, will preach in the Morning, at Eleven o'clock; and the Rev. E. CORNWALL, of Bayswater, former Minister, in the Evening, at half past Six.

Collections will be made after the various Services towards the Building Fund.

VOLUNTARY SCHOOL ASSOCIATION.

The SOIREE and ANNUAL MEETING of the above Society will be held at the LONDON COFFEE-HOUSE, LUDGATE HILL, on WEDNESDAY, May 23rd.

The Chair will be taken at Seven o'clock p.m. by G. W. Alexander, Esq.; and the Rev. J. Burnet, J. Carvell Williams, Esq., Charles Reed, Esq., and other Gentlemen, will take part in the proceedings.

Refreshments will be provided at Six o'clock.

Tickets of Admission (One Shilling and Sixpence each) may be had at the London Coffee-House, and at the Office of the Society, 7, Blomfield-street, Finsbury.

VOLUNTARY and RELIGIOUS EDUCATION.

The COMMITTEE of the VOLUNTARY SCHOOL ASSOCIATION earnestly appeal to the Friends of Free Religious Education on behalf of that Society.

The object of the Association is to render Assistance in Establishing and Sustaining Day-Schools, conducted on the Voluntary Principle, in which an unsectarian and religious education is imparted to the children.

The following extracts from the correspondence of the Committee will show the character of the cases assisted, and the need there is for help being given:—

"The last grant made to the school preserved it from being closed, and encouraged the people to support it as they had never done before."

"The grant is sufficiently large to relieve me of all fears for the school, and not so large as to render unnecessary the most strenuous efforts of our friends here."

"The school here has been established five years, and during that period has been supported entirely by the children's peace and subscriptions of friends. These have hitherto been found adequate, though most strenuous efforts have been necessary. We find, however, that this year there will be a considerable deficit. This is a consequence of the persevering, and, I fear, in some cases, unscrupulous efforts, of the friends of the national school, which is supported largely by Government grants. Every means have been tried to ruin our school—bribes, threats, Church influence, landlord influence, &c. We are doing our utmost, and now confidently appeal to you to help us. We hope that you will not allow us to be crushed without an effort to save us."

SUBSCRIPTIONS and DONATIONS of any amount will be thankfully received by the Treasurer, G. W. Alexander, Esq., 40, Lombard-street, E.C.; or by the Rev. H. Richard and Jos. Barrett, Esq., the Honorary Secretaries, at the Office of the Society, 7, Blomfield-street, Finsbury, E.C.

COLONIAL MISSIONARY SOCIETY.

The TWENTY-FOURTH ANNUAL MEETING will be held at the POULTRY CHAPEL on MONDAY, May 14th, 1860.

ROBERT HANBURY, Esq., M.P., will take the Chair at Half past Six o'clock, p.m.

The Revs. Dr. Boaz, from Calcutta; Thomas Binney; Thomas Arnold; and Joseph Beasley, from Sydney; and W. E. Baxter, Esq., M.P., will address the Meeting.

JERUSALEM.—TWO GRAND PICTURES

by SELWIS, each 12 feet by 8 feet, containing more than 200 special points of interest.

1.—JERUSALEM in her GRANDEUR, A.D. 33, with Christ's triumphant entry into the Holy City. 2.—JERUSALEM in her FALL, as now viewed from the Mount of Olives.

The above Pictures are now on view at Messrs. LEGGATT HAYWARD and LEGGATT'S, 75, Cornhill; open daily from Nine to Six o'clock.

Owing to the extraordinary attraction of these wonderful Pictures, it is found necessary to charge Sixpence each to all persons not having Cards of Invitation, to prevent the room being overcrowded.

Cards issued by L. H. and L. for the Private View will be available during this Exhibition for the admission of three persons.

ANNOTTO BAY, JAMAICA.

THE BAPTIST CHURCH AT ANNOTTO BAY, JAMAICA, TO THE FRIENDS OF RELIGION AND EDUCATION GENERALLY.

The sudden, unexpected, and terrible destruction by fire of our large Chapel and School room here is a public calamity; and as such, appeals to the humanity, sympathy, and benevolence of all right-thinking men. The Chapel measured 65 by 63 feet, and the School room 45 by 21 feet. The cost of erecting these noble buildings, only seventeen years ago, amounted to between 3,000l. to 4,000l. They are now completely destroyed, with the exception of the bare walls of the chapel, which, we rejoice to say, are uninjured. The necessary cost of rebuilding them will amount to between 1,800l. and 2,000l. Will you kindly contribute anything towards realising this, at present, large amount? Whatever you may be pleased to give will be most thankfully received by the pastor and people.

SAMUEL JONES, Pastor.

N.B.—About 380l. towards this object have been raised in Jamaica.

Baptist Mission House, April 13th, 1860.

The Rev. Mr. Jones, of Annotto Bay, had an interview with the Committee, to whom he stated the case of the destruction of his Chapel by fire, and the efforts of the friends in Jamaica to enable the Church to rebuild it.

Resolved,

That this Committee desire to express their sympathy with Mr. Jones and the Church at Annotto Bay, in the calamity which has fallen upon them; and while pleased to notice their efforts to restore the ruined building in which they had been accustomed to worship, and the assistance rendered by friends on the spot and sister churches in the island, they cordially recommend the case to their friends throughout the country.

Signed on behalf of the Committee,
FREDERICK TRESTRALL, Secretary.

Montego Bay, March 5th, 1860.

Having visited Annotto Bay, and witnessed the destruction wrought by fire on the large Chapel and its School room, I most cheerfully testify to the accuracy of Mr. Jones's description of the calamity, and most earnestly and cordially recommend his case to the liberal sympathy of all Christian friends to whom he may present it. The people whom he serves deserve this expression of Christian love.

EDWARD R. UNDERHILL, Secretary
of Baptist Missionary Society.

Spanish Town, March 24th, 1860.

Knowing the circumstances of Mr. Jones's case and people, I very cordially join in the above recommendation of my friend and colleague.

JOHN T. BROWN,

Member of Deputation to Jamaica.

I cordially concur in this recommendation, and shall be happy to help.

JOSEPH ANGUS

I have great pleasure in recommending the case of Annotto Bay to the Christian friends in England.

S. MORTON PETO.

A better case than this cannot be found.

C. H. SPURGEON.

THE NORWICH CHAPEL CASE.—The

ATTORNEY GENERAL versus GOULD.—A Complete Report of the Hearing in this Case, which came on before the Master of the Rolls last week, appears in THE FREEMAN of this day, May 9th.

Office: 21, Warwick-lane, Paternoster-row, E.C.

TWO CHEMISTS and DRUGGISTS.—In a rapidly extending and highly respectable suburb, a Select FAMILY and DISPENSING BUSINESS, with neatly fitted, well stocked shop, and steadily increasing returns, is now OFFERED FOR PURCHASE. The business has been conducted by the Proprietor for more than 30 years, who will give satisfactory reasons for its disposal. The reserved price has been fixed greatly below its value, in order to secure an immediate sale.

Address, L.W., care of Albert Cookham, Esq., 5, Cannon street West, E.C.

WANTED, a SITUATION for a YOUTH.

Sixteen years of Age. He has received a good English Education, and is willing to learn a Business, or enter an Office. Also a YOUNG WOMAN, Seventeen Years of Age, is desirous of meeting with an ENGAGEMENT. Both can be well recommended.

Address, stating terms, &c., Mr. W. Housie, Post-office, Shering, Essex.

THE INDEPENDENT CHURCH at

HYTHE, in KENT, is desirous of ENGAGING for a Moderate Remuneration the Services of a MINISTER. A scope for usefulness and increase.

Address, Mr. Richards, Baker, High street, Hythe.

TO WATCH and CLOCKMAKERS, JEWELLERS, &c.—WANTED, a GOOD WORKMAN

in the above branches of a Country Trade.

Apply to J. Dobell, Watchmaker, 39, Burgate street, Canterbury.

WANTED to PLACE a YOUTH (indoors)

to the PRINTING and BOOKBINDING Business. He has already been more than three years at the former branch.

Address, B. V., Post-office, Weymouth. References given and required.

WANTED, a RESPECTABLE YOUNG MAN for the General DRAPERY TRADE.

Apply, stating age, salary, and reference, to John Cooper, Dudley.

TO HOSIERS.—WANTED, a YOUNG MAN of good address, well acquainted with Hosiery and

Gloves.

Apply, with reference and salary expected, to Thomas Andrew, Shrewsbury.

TO DRAPERS.—WANTED, by the Middle

of June next, a SITUATION in the above line, in a thorough Christian family. The Advertiser wishes to reside in the house the first year, afterwards to live out if necessary. For further particulars, address, A. B. C., Post-office, Ely.

TO GROCERS' ASSISTANTS.—WANTED,

immediately, a YOUNG MAN of good ability.

Apply to J. and E. Wheeler, Great Yarmouth.

TO TALLOW-CHANDLERS.—WANTED,

a YOUNG MAN, of unexceptionable character. He must be a good maker and melter. Situation permanent.

Apply, stating wages required, to Price and Co., Worcester.

WANTED, an Active and Obliging YOUNG MAN in the GROCERY and PROVISION TRADES.

Apply to Mr. R. Taylor, High street, Andover.

WANTED, a STABLE, RESPECTABLE

PERSON, about 40, as HOUSEKEEPER and SHOP-WOMAN.

Apply, by letter only, to Alfred Woolings, Baker, Orsett, Essex.

MUTUAL LIFE ASSURANCE.

THE UNITED KINGDOM TEMPERANCE

and GENERAL PROVIDENT INSTITUTION,

1, ADELAIDE PLACE, LONDON BRIDGE, LONDON.

Established 1840.

By this Institution, upwards of 23,000 Policies have been issued,

And during the last Four Years upwards of 10,000 New Members have been added.

Business of the Year ending 31st December, 1859.

Policies Issued.	Amount Assured.	New Premiums.
3,368.	£503,580.	£17,230 3s. 5d.

A valuation of the Assets and Liabilities of the Institution is made every Five Years. At the last valuation in 1855, a Bonus was declared, ranging from 3s. to 7s. per cent. on the total amount of Premiums paid.

Statement of Business in the Five Years, preceeding the last valuation, compared with that of the following Four Years:—

From January, 1851, to December, 1855—5 Years.

Policies Issued.	Amount Assured.	Annual Premiums.
6,426.	£1,016,679.	£35,000 0s. 0d.

From January, 1856, to January, 1860—4 Years.

Policies Issued.	Amount Assured.	Annual Premiums.
10,679.	£1,584,285.	£55,178 8s. 10d.

	Accumulated Capital.	Annual Income.
December, 1855.	£138,408.	£43,162 0s. 0d.
December, 1859.	£285,000.	£93,000 0s. 0d.
Increase in Four Years	£146,592.	£49,838 0s. 0d.

Every description of Life Assurance effected on application to the Resident Director, or to the District or Local Agents.

Assurances effected in the present year will participate in the Bonus to be declared early in 1861.

ROBERT WARNER, Esq., 8, Crescent, Cripplegate, London, Chairman.

W. R. BAKER, Resident Director.

The Annual Meeting of the Institution will be held at the London Tavern, Bishopsgate street, on Monday, May 28th, at Two o'clock.

SHIRELAND HALL, BIRMINGHAM.

The Rev. T. H. MORGAN'S SCHOOL for YOUNG GENTLEMEN. Shireland Hall is situated in an elevated and healthy locality, surrounded by fields, about two miles from the town. The adjacent cricket and play-grounds are spacious.

Six of Mr. Morgan's pupils obtained certificates of merit at the recent Oxford Examination; three of these pupils secured the titles of A.A. Two senior pupils have matriculated this year at the London University. The Committee of the Birmingham Scholastic Institution for Sons of Ministers confide to Mr. Morgan's care the pupils whose education they promote.

COMMERCIAL SCHOOL, SLOUGH.
Conducted by Mr. VINEY.
Sound Education on moderate terms, in a healthy locality,
eighteen miles from town.
Full Particulars promptly supplied.

COWPER'S HOUSE SCHOOL, HUNTING-
DON. established in 1813, and conducted by Mr.
ROBERT HONEY, examined Licentiate of the College of
Preceptors.
The Course of Instruction includes English, Classics, Mathe-
matics, Modern Languages, Chemistry, Natural Philosophy,
Drawing, and Music. At the recent Christmas Examination
at the College of Preceptors, Five Pupils obtained Certificates,
one of whom stood first in Arithmetic (with Mathematical
Prize), Algebra, Geometry, and Natural Philosophy. Two
Pupils have also passed the Cambridge Middle-class Examina-
tions.
The ensuing QUARTER will COMMENCE on MONDAY, the
2nd of April.

HENRY JAMES TRESIDDER begs to
inform his Friends and the Public generally that he has
resigned the Management of the Book Society and entered
into Business as PUBLISHER and BOOKSELLER, at
No. 17, AVE MARIA-LANE, PATERNOSTER-ROW,
LONDON, E.C.

H. J. T. is prepared to supply all works for Family, Sunday-
school, Village, Working Men's, and Congregational Libraries,
and will forward lists of works selected specially in each
instance.

H. J. T. is prepared to purchase the copyright of new works,
or to publish them for the Authors on commission. Estimates
forwarded per return of post.

Orders per post promptly attended to. Any work not in
stock obtained on the shortest notice.

To avoid delay and ensure correct delivery, all letters should
be addressed, Henry James Tresidder, 17, Ave Maria-lane,
London, E.C.

PARALYSIS and EPILEPSY.—The
NATIONAL HOSPITAL for the PARALYSED and
EPILEPTIC, 24, Queen-square, Bloomsbury, is OPEN for
Out-Patients suffering from these dreadful diseases. Funds are
urgently needed, to enable the Board to place additional
beds for In-Patients. Dr. Brown Séquard attends on Mondays
and Wednesdays; Dr. Ramskill on Tuesdays and Fridays,
at 1.30.

Donations and Subscriptions are earnestly solicited, and will
be gratefully received by the Secretary, at the Hospital, or at
the Union Bank, City; or Messrs. Coutts, Strand.

GEORGE REID, Sec.

DEPOSIT, ASSURANCE, and DISCOUNT
BANK.

FIVE PER CENT. on Sums for fixed periods or at
seven days' notice, or Three per Cent. at Call.

Offices: 5, Cannon-street West, E.C.

G. H. LAW, Manager

£281,953 have been advanced since May,
1851, by the PERPETUAL INVEST-
MENT LAND and BUILDING SOCIETY, 37, NEW
BRIDGE-STREET, BLACKFRIARS.—MONEY ready to be
advanced in large or small sums, for long or short periods,
upon the security of freehold, copyhold, and leasehold property.
Law charges fixed; redemption easy. Prospectuses may be
had at the office of the Society, 37, New Bridge-street, Black-
friars, daily, between the hours of Nine and Five, and on
Wednesday evenings from Six to Eight.

JOHN EDWARD TRESIDDER, Secretary.

QUEEN INSURANCE COMPANY, for
FIRE, LIFE, and ANNUITIES.

CHIEF OFFICE,

QUEEN INSURANCE BUILDINGS, LIVERPOOL.
OFFICE-BEARERS.

TRUSTEES.

Thomas Edwards Moss, Esq. | Christopher Bushell, Esq.
Edward Heath, Esq.

BOARD OF DIRECTION.

CHAIRMAN—Edward Heath, Esq.

DEPUTY-CHAIRMAN—Thomas B. Forwood, Esq.

Thomas F. Bennett, Esq. | Alexander Hastie, Esq.
Francis A. Clint, Esq. | J. Hartley Hind, Esq.
Kenneth Dowle, Esq. | Joseph Kitchen, Esq.
George W. Ewing, Esq. | John L. Newall, Esq.
C. R. Hall, Esq. | James A. Pictou, Esq.

T. Stamford Raffles, Esq.

BANKERS—Messrs. Moss and Co.

SOLICITORS—Messrs. Haigh and Thompson.

AUDITORS—Messrs. Harwood Bannister and Son.

PHYSICIAN—James Turnbull, Esq., M.D.

MANAGER and ACTUARY to the COMPANY—W. P. Clirehugh,

Esq.

LONDON BRANCH.

OFFICE—2, Royal Exchange Buildings.

BANKERS—Messrs. Barclay Bevan and Co.

MEDICAL REFEREE—J. Edward Pollock, Esq., M.D.

RESIDENT SECRETARY—Hugh Brown Taplin, Esq.

MANCHESTER BRANCH.

OFFICE—50, St. Ann's-street

RESIDENT SECRETARY—John Kingsley, Esq.

The Annual Meeting of the Shareholders was held on the
21st October, 1859, THOMAS B. FORWOOD, Esq. Deputy-
Chairman in the Chair. The Meeting was numerous and
influentially attended.

From the Directors' Report it appears that the New Income
for the year exceeded 20,000l.; and after payment of Losses by
Fire, expenses of Management, and the expenses necessarily in-
curred in opening the Branches and Agencies, a balance of
9,500l., in favour of the Company was shown on the year's
transactions.

FIRE DEPARTMENT.

The large extension of New Business in this Department is
shown by the following comparison between the first two and
the third and fourth Quarters of the year:—

In the Two First Quarters the Amount Assured was £1,753,000
In the Third and Fourth Quarters the Amount was 3,877,000

Exhibiting an increase of £2,118,000
And making the Total Amount Assured with the
Company during the Year £5,636,000

LIFE DEPARTMENT.

The same gratifying progress has been made in this as in the
Fire Department.
Assurances of every description dependent on human life, at
rates of premium commensurate with the risk, and as low as is
consistent with safety.

SPECIAL FEATURE.—Non-forfeiture of Policies, as explained
in the following clause:—In case of the Assured being desirous,
from any cause, to discontinue the Premiums on an ordinary
life policy, the Company will, after the Policy has been in force
three years, grant a paid up Policy, for the total amount of
Premiums paid in, and any Bonus that may have been added.

LOANS.—Advances are made by the Directors to eligible parties
on personal security combined with a Life Policy.

Every information on the business of the Company may be
obtained on application at the Chief or Branch Offices, or to
any of the Agents of the Company.

Application for Agencies requested.

W. P. CLIREHUGH, Manager.

H. B. TAPLIN, London Secretary.

STAR LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY,
48, MOORGATE-STREET, LONDON.
JESSE HOBSON, F.R.S., Secretary.

ACCIDENTS OF EVERY KIND AND FROM ANY CAUSE
Insured against by an Annual Payment of 3l. to the
RAILWAY PASSENGERS' ASSURANCE
COMPANY,

which secures 1,000l. at death, or 6l. weekly for Injury.
ONE PERSON in every FIFTEEN of those insured is in-
jured yearly by accident of some description.
No EXTRA premium for Members of Volunteer Rifle Corps.
No charge for Stamp Duty.
For Terms, Prospectuses, &c., apply to the Provincial
Agents, the Railway Stations, and at the Head Office.
This Company ALONE, without union or amalgamation with
any other Company, has paid in

COMPENSATION £53,000.

WILLIAM J. VIAN, Secretary.

Railway Passengers' Assurance Company,
Office, 3, Old Broad-street, London, (E.C.)

BRITISH EMPIRE MUTUAL
LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY,

32, NEW BRIDGE-STREET, LONDON, E.C.

Incorporated 1847.

DIRECTORS.

GOVER, JOHN, Esq., Chairman.

MILLAR, R. J., Esq., Vice-Chairman.

Bennett, C., Esq. | Gardiner, B. W., Esq.
Bunnell, P., Esq. | Groser, W., Esq.
Burge, G. W., Esq. | Lewis, G. C., Esq.
Burton, J. R., Esq. | Pratt, D., Esq.
Cooper, Henry, Esq. | Sanders, J., Esq.

AUDITORS.

Benham, Augustus, Esq. | Gladwish, Thomas, Esq.

BANKERS.

Union Bank of London, Temple Bar.

SOLICITORS—Messrs. Watson and Sons.

SURVEYOR—Thomas Turner, Esq.

SURGEON—John Mann, Esq.

The superiority of the Mutual Principle in Life Assurance
is shown by the success attained by Societies so formed; by
many Proprietary Companies having been converted into
Mutual; and by others having consented to give a portion of
their profits to the assured—"Thus affording them NEARLY ALL
the advantages of a Mutual Assurance Office." But in the
BRITISH EMPIRE MUTUAL LIFE ASSURANCE COM-
PANY, not only NEARLY ALL, but ALL such advantages belong
to the assured. The Management of the Company is under
their sole control, and the whole of the profits are theirs—
while the assured are entirely free from responsibility, inas-
much as each policy limits the claim under it to the funds of
the Company exclusively.

Amount of Assurances now in force £1,723,115
Annual Income £59,335

Accumulated Fund, consisting of the Premiums re-
maining after payment of all claims on policies
and three bonuses, and being nearly 60 per cent.
of the whole premiums received on all existing
policies £163,145

The business of the present year to 24th April exceeds that
of the corresponding period of last year by £23,200.

Persons assuring during the present year will be entitled to
share in the bonus to be declared up to 31st December, 1863.
No extra premium is charged to members of Rifle Corps
serving in the United Kingdom.

April, 1860.

JAMES INGLIS, Secretary.

IMMEDIATE CASH ADVANCES—Money
Lent on Personal Security, Leases, &c.

SUMS from 10l. to 300l. ADVANCED two or three days
after application, for two years, one year, or six months (repay-
able by weekly, monthly, or quarterly instalments); and good
Bills Discounted. Charges moderate, and strict confidence
observed.

LONDON and PROVINCIAL LOAN COMPANY; Office,
69, Goswell-road, London. Open daily from Nine till Six.
Forms of application and prospectus (gratis) on receipt of a
stamped envelope.

H. FLEAR, Manager.

ELKINGTON and CO., PATENTEES of
the ELECTRO-PLATE, MANUFACTURING SILVER-
SMITHS, BRONZISTS, &c., beg to intimate that they have
added to their extensive Stocks a large variety of new designs
in the highest class of art, which have recently obtained for
them at the Paris Exhibition the decoration of the Cross of the
Legion of Honour, as well as the "Grande Médaille d'Honneur"
(the only one awarded to the trade).

The Council Medal was also awarded to them at the Exhibi-
tion in 1851.

Each article bears their mark, E. and Co., under a Crown, and
articles sold as being plated by Elkington's patent process
afford no guarantee of quality.

22, Regent-street, } London,
45, Moorgate-street,
29, College-green, Dublin,

And at their Manufactory, Newhall-street, Birmingham.
Estimates and Drawings sent free by post. Replating and
Gilding as usual.

REDUCTION OF TEN POUNDS PER TON IN THE
PRICE OF

THORLEY'S FOOD FOR CATTLE on and
after the 1st of APRIL, 1860.

Barrels containing 448 Feeds, weighing nett 112 lbs., with
measure, 40s. each.
Cases containing 448 Feeds, weighing nett 112 lbs., in Packets,
45s. each.

Carriage paid to any Railway Station in the Kingdom.

Nutritive Value £15
Condimental Value 125

Total £140 per Ton.

Showing a profit of £100 per Ton, through the use of this in-
valuable compound, adapted for the seasoning of all kinds of
food for animals.

Agents required in every Town where none are already ap-
pointed.

JOSEPH THORLEY, the Inventor and Sole Proprietor.
Offices—77, Newgate-street, London.

A Pamphlet sent free by post on application.

KEEP YOUR PREMISES FREE FROM MICE AND
SPARROWS.

BARBER'S POISONED WHEAT kills Mice
and Sparrows on the Spot. In 1d., 2d., 4d., and 8d.
Packets, with directions and testimonials. No risk nor danger
in laying this Wheat about. From a single packet hundreds of
mice and sparrows are found dead.

Agents: Barclay and Sons, 95, Farringdon-street; W. Sut-
ton and Co., Bow-churchyard; B. Yates and Co., 25, Budge-
row, London; and sold by all Druggists, Grocers, &c., through-
out the United Kingdom.

Barber's Poisoned Wheat Works, Ipswich (removed from Eye,
Suffolk).

ROYAL INSURANCE COMPANY.
Capital, TWO MILLIONS Sterling.

TOTAL	ACCUMULATED
ANNUAL	FUNDS IN
REVENUE	HAND
EXCEEDS	OVER
£300,000.	£700,000.



FIRE.

Nearly the Largest Company in the World.
Liberal Settlement of Claims, amounting annually to
considerably above £100,000.

LIFE.

Large Bonus declared £2 per Cent. per Annum on the Sum
Assured.

Division of Profits every Five Years, to Policies then
in existence Two entire Years.

RIFLE CORPS.

No Extra Premium to Volunteers within the United Kingdom.

THE TIMES.

The City Article of the 24th July, 1856, states that "the
transactions of the Royal Insurance Company appear to have
been of a perfectly satisfactory character."

Article in the "Times" of the 6th August, 1859.

At the Annual Meeting of the Royal Insurance Company
yesterday the Report for the year 1858 stated that the premiums
received in the Fire department amounted to 196,148l., showing
an increase of 60,088l., or more than 50 per cent in three years.
A dividend of 3s. and a bonus of 4s. per share were declared,
free of Income-tax, and 30,000l., being the amount of undivided
profits, was carried to the Reserve Fund, now raised to
140,850l. In the Life Department 832 new Policies were
issued in the year, assuring 387,752l., upon which 12,354l. was
received in new premiums.

WESLEYAN TIMES.

The affairs of this important Company evidently stand in a
sound and prosperous condition, and its operations have in-
creased, not through the purchase or amalgamation of other
undertakings, but from the valuable character of its own con-
nections and highly efficient management.—August 15, 1859.

THE NONCONFORMIST.

When we consider the number of Insurance Companies which
have been brought into a short-lived existence within the last
few years, many of which have either transferred their business
to or amalgamated with others, and sad to relate to the un-
fortunate shareholders, too many now winding up in Chancery,
it is gratifying to record the transactions of one of the most
successful assurance institutions in the United Kingdom.—
August 17, 1859.

THE PATRIOT.

The Annual Report of the Company presents its affairs in a
very favourable point of view.—August 18, 1859.

PERCY M. DOVE, Manager, &c.

T E A.

MOORE, BROTHERS, and COMPANY are
the only London Merchants willing to supply Families
direct at Merchants' Profits.

The saving to families will be fully 7d. to 1s. per lb.

The FINEST SOUCHONG TEA—3s. 9d. by the lb.;
3s. 8d. by the 20 lb. bag.
(This is guaranteed the best, and usually charged 4s. 4d. to
4s. 8d. per lb.)

The FINEST HYSON—4s. 6d. by the lb.;
4s. 5d. by the 20 lb. bag.

(This is usually charged 5s. and 5s. 4d. per lb.)

The FINEST PEARL-LEAF GUNPOWDER—4s. 9d. by the lb.
4s. 8d. by the 20 lb. bag.

(This is usually charged 5s. 4d. and 6s. per lb.)

The BEST CRYLON COFFEE—1s. 0 1/4d. per lb.

The FINEST WEST INDIA—1s. 4d. per lb.

The FINEST EAST INDIA or MOCHA—1s. 6d. per lb.

The Firm give no credit, employ neither Canvassers,
Travellers, nor Agents, give no Commission, suffer no Losses
either by bad debts or a Sugar Trade; but, as the drawbacks
under these various heads usually average about 10 per cent.
on the Tea and Coffee return, they GIVE THIS 10 PER CENT. TO
THEIR CUSTOMERS by supplying families 10 per cent. below the
prices of every house in the trade.

The characters of each are very carefully given, and they
guarantee them to be what they are represented.

MOORE, BROTHERS, and COMPANY, MERCHANTS,
35, LONDON-BRIDGE, CITY, E.C.

FURNITURE.—Where to Buy—What to
Buy.—P. and S. BEYFUS are selling the 28l. Dining-
room Suite, the 35l. Drawing-room Suite, the 26l. Bed-room
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for 4l. Illustrated Catalogue gratis, and free by Post. Goods
carriage-paid to any part of the kingdom.

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IMPORTANT SALE of FIRST-CLASS NEW
and SECOND-CLASS FURNITURE.

J. DENT and CO. beg to announce to the Public that they
have purchased the entire Furniture of several large houses,
which, added to their already the largest Stock in London,
they are offering at half its real value; comprising Suites of
Dining, Drawing, and Bedroom Appendages, in oak, mahogany,
walnut, and other woods; mahogany dining-room chairs at
15s.; walnut drawing-room ditto, in silk, at 18s. 6d.; telescope
dining tables, at 80s.; iron bedsteads at 8s. 6d.; every other
article proportionately cheap, at the GREAT WESTERN
FURNITURE BAZAAR, 30, 31, 32, and 99, CRAWFORD-
STREET, BAKER-STREET. Established 30 years.

Shippers to hot climates will find the above stock unequalled.
Every article is warranted. Marked the lowest price in plain
figures. Exchanged or money returned if not approved of.
Carriage paid to any railway station in the kingdom. No
charge for packing or the use of cases.

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STEADS.—HEAL and SON'S Show Rooms contain a
large assortment of Brass Bedsteads, suitable both for Home
use and for Tropical Climates; handsome Iron Bedsteads with
Brass mountings and elegantly japanned; Plain Iron Bed-
steads for servants; every description of Wood Bedstead that is
manufactured, in Mahogany, Birch, Walnut Tree woods,
Polished Deal and Japanned, all fitted with Bedding and
Furniture complete, as well as every description of Bed-room
Furniture.

HEAL and SON'S ILLUSTRATED CATA-
LOGUE, containing designs and prices of 100 Bedsteads,
as well as of 150 different articles of Bed-room Furniture, sent
free by post.—HEAL and SON, bedstead, bedding and bed-
room furniture manufacturers, 196, Tottenham-court-road, W.

THE Nonconformist.

"THE DISSIDENCE OF DISSENT AND THE PROTESTANTISM OF THE PROTESTANT RELIGION."

VOL. XX.—NEW SERIES, No. 758.]

LONDON: WEDNESDAY, MAY 9, 1860.

PRICE { UNSTAMPED .. 5d.
STAMPED 6d.

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Ecclesiastical Affairs.

THE APPROACHING CENSUS.

WILL any one have the goodness to read to us, if he can, the riddle of our present Home Secretary's idiosyncrasy? Sir George Cornewall Lewis is an insoluble puzzle to us. His ordinary course is slow, sober, and sensible—but he varies it every now and then with the most gratuitous, unintelligible, and offensive blunders? What earthly motive, for instance, could he have had for setting up a lame defence of the Bible-printing monopoly? Why, when every decent man in the kingdom felt himself and his country degraded by that brutal pugilistic encounter between Sayers and Heenan, did the Home Secretary venture upon a laboured apology of prize-fighting? What has prevailed upon him to think of altering the mode of taking the decennial Census from that which the Registrar-General so satisfactorily employed in 1850-51; and, above all, why, when the absurdity of his proposed changes has been pointed out to him, does he persist in his stupid mistake? Is he a man of mere routine, who is sure when he comes to deal with anything that lies a little out of the ordinary ruts of officialism to put his foot into a mess? Or is he a pedant out of place? Or has he got unsuspected elements of mischief in him, which, like a lucifer-match, take fire when rubbed against a gritty surface? We have always thought, and still wish to think, of him as a man who means no harm; but, after all, the worst mistakes ever made by men in power are usually such as spring out of a profound ignorance of the feelings of those whom they undertake to govern. Sir George knows vastly more about books than men—and was more at home as a critic than he has ever been as a Cabinet Minister.

About this Census business, however, it will certainly conduce to the interests of his colleagues to prevent his having his own way. What is it he is bent on doing? Perhaps we should be telling no more than the truth, and the whole truth, as far as he is concerned, if we were to say he wishes to confer an obligation on the Bishop of Oxford. Dr. Wilberforce, as he took pains to let the public know, was deeply dissatisfied with the outcome of the last Census, in regard to religious accommodation and attendance. It stripped the Church of England of much of that shadowy grandeur which she had been accustomed to assume as the spiritual guide of all but an insignificant fraction of the people. It revealed the marvellous power of Christian willingness both in and out of the Establishment. It exhibited Dissenters as nearly on a par, in point of numbers, with the worshippers at the Church, and as greatly exceeding them in the rapidity of their progress. Better still, it brought to light that immense stratum of English society which lay beyond the common means of all the religious communions. The Bishop of Oxford, very soon after the report of Mr. Horace Mann had made its appearance, attempted to cast discredit on the results of an inquiry which had done so little to illustrate the

wisdom or efficiency of the State Church principle. But he made so small an impression upon the public mind, that he appears to have considered it wise to drop further allusions to what, so far as related to the past, would admit of no remedy, and to lay his plans for the future with subtle caution. To his influence we believe we are right in ascribing the resolution of the Statistical Section of the Social Science Association, to press for more discriminating returns at the taking of the Census in 1860-61. Possibly, also, it is to his persuasiveness of tongue that we may attribute the innocent readiness of Sir G. C. Lewis to walk in the path which they had so kindly and thoughtfully traced for him.

Whether this be or be not a correct account of the steps by which the Home Secretary's decision has been brought about, it is certain that the decision itself is in perfect unison with the earnest desires of Samuel Oxon. So we are to have no inquiry this time into religious accommodation and attendance, which the Registrar-General might prosecute without offence to any one, and a knowledge of which we know, by experience, to be wonderfully quickening to spiritual enterprise—but, instead thereof, we are to have a misleading inquisition into "religious profession." That is to say, the master of every household in the kingdom is to be required, under a penalty, on the day specified by the Census Act, to put down on the paper to be left with him, not merely the name, age, sex, and occupation of every man, woman, and child, that slept under his roof on the preceding night, but the religious profession also. Such is the plan as it now stands, and the Home Secretary intimates that he means to stick to his plan. We find it necessary, therefore, to make an observation or two, in the purport of which we have already been anticipated by several journals, but by none with more power than by the *Daily News*.

1. There is a superfluous impertinence in asking, and especially in asking under legal menace, what a man's religious profession may be. It is terribly provocative of another question—"What's that to you?" And we fancy the answer to the second question would, if perfectly trustworthy, furnish the best possible proof of the impertinence of the first. We should like to put the Bishop of Oxford in the witness-box, and extract from him his real reason for desiring this information. On the supposition that by the pressure of law he can squeeze out the facts he wants to know, what public advantage does he hope to gain thereby? Would any better purpose than the gratifying of the idlest curiosity be served by docketing every person in the realm with the name of a religious denomination? Inquiries into the extent of accommodation for, and attendance on, public worship, are intelligible enough, for the knowledge which they elicit both stimulate and regulate Christian enterprise. But of what practical use would it be to map out with perfect accuracy of detail the area of population occupied by each of the religious sects? It would be curious and interesting, no doubt—so it would be to ascertain in how many families the father kisses his children when they bid him good-night. But, surely, unless it had some grave object to gain thereby, it would be gratuitously intrusive for the State to make the inquiry.

2. The information sought in this offensively prying manner will be given neither completely nor accurately. Thousands will refuse to answer. Tens of thousands will not know what the true answer should be. The number of persons who must necessarily be answered for by others—children, for instance, and in many cases servants—will mount up to millions. What answer are they to give who make no religious profession at all? We understand it is proposed to class all the varieties of religious and ecclesiastical distinction, into three categories—namely, Church of England, Protestant Dissenter, and Roman Catholic. Could any more

misleading device be invented? It is a capital plan, we admit, for swelling the nominal extent of the Established Church, because all who do not choose to rank themselves with Dissenters, or who cannot aver that they are Roman Catholics, will be compelled to rank themselves with the dominant sect. It has even been suggested to us that the whole body of Dissenters should return themselves as members of the Church of England, which, in a constitutional sense, they undoubtedly are—and could anything like unanimity be secured, we should like to see the suggestion carried out. But how utterly worthless will be returns which, owing to these and other causes, will be wholly unfit to be depended on! We can imagine nothing better calculated to bring the Census itself into contempt.

3. The uncalled for change which the Home Secretary has allowed to be palmed upon him by the Council of the Statistical Society, and which he, in turn, is endeavouring to palm upon the country, will break up the serial form of the returns, and render impossible the comparison of one period with another. Had the same method been pursued as in 1850-51, we should have been able to measure progress. On Sir G. C. Lewis's plan we must surrender that advantage.

But we refrain from further reasoning on so plain a point. The Bill is not yet passed. It must not be allowed to pass in its present form. It has been artfully framed for purposes of delusion. Mr. Baines, we see, has given notice of the required alterations in Committee. We entreat our readers to support him to the utmost, by instructing their representatives on the necessity and value of his amendments.

THE CENSUS BILL.

The Census (England) Bill did not come on Monday in the House of Commons, but the Committee stands adjourned to Friday next. The amendments to be proposed by Mr. Baines are as follows: Clause 4, line 29, leave out "religious profession." Page 4, after clause 8, insert the following clause:—"The Secretary of State shall, as far as is practicable, cause inquiry to be made and returns to be obtained of all places of worship, schools, and educational establishments, similar to those obtained in the Census of 1851, under the heads of 'Public Worship' and 'Education.'" Already a deputation—mainly of M.P.'s—has waited upon Sir G. Lewis, but they obtained nothing but vague answers to their remonstrances. The deputation was headed by Mr. Baines and Mr. Bright.

We understand that one deputation or more is likely to have an interview with Lord Palmerston to-morrow, (Thursday) at twelve o'clock, on the Census Bill, and trust that they will succeed in convincing him of the propriety of accepting Mr. Baines's amendments.

The following pithy statement of objections to the proposed Religious Census has been published as a handbill, for general circulation, and may be obtained on application to the Secretary of the Liberation Society, 2 Serjeants' Inn, Fleet-street, E.C.:—

Next year the decennial Census of the population will be taken, and a bill authorizing the necessary arrangements is now before Parliament.

This bill, if passed in its present form, will lead to a most important departure from the plan pursued in 1851. Then an account was taken of the number of places of worship belonging to each religious denomination, and also of the number of attendants on a particular Sunday; the number of schools, and of the scholars attending them, was also ascertained. The present bill does not provide for the collection of similar statistics next year; but it does provide that every occupier of a dwelling-house shall make a return, not only of the name, sex, age, and occupation, but also of the "religious profession" of "every living person who abode in every house on the night of Sunday, the 7th of April, 1861." A neglect, or refusal to supply this information will expose householders to a penalty of "not more than 5l. nor less than 20s., half of which is to go to any one who may act as informer!" The enumerators to be employed will also have authority to ask such questions as

May 9.]

THE NONCONFORMIST.

[1860.

COMMERCIAL SCHOOL, SLOUGH.
Conducted by Mr. VERNY.
Sound Education on moderate terms, in a healthy locality,
fifteen miles from town.
Full Particulars promptly supplied.

COWPER'S HOUSE SCHOOL, HUNTING-
DON, established in 1813, and conducted by Mr.
ROBERT HONEY, examined Licentiate of the College of
Preceptors.
The Course of Instruction includes English, Classics, Mathe-
matics, Modern Languages, Chemistry, Natural Philosophy,
Drawing, and Music. At the recent Christmas Examination
at the College of Preceptors, Five Pupils obtained Certificates,
one of whom stood first in Arithmetic (with Mathematical
Prize), Algebra, Geometry, and Natural Philosophy. Two
Pupils have also passed the Cambridge Middle-class Examina-
tions.
The ensuing QUARTER will COMMENCE on MONDAY, the
2nd of April.

HENRY JAMES TRESIDDER begs to
inform his Friends and the Public generally that he has
resigned the Management of the Book Society and entered
into Business as PUBLISHER and BOOKSELLER, at
No. 17, AVE MARIA-LANE, PATERNOSTER-ROW,
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H. J. T. is prepared to supply all works for Family, Sunday-
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and will forward lists of works selected specially in each
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H. J. T. is prepared to purchase the copyright of new works,
or to publish them for the Authors on commission. Estimates
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Orders per post promptly attended to. Any work not in
stock obtained on the shortest notice.
To avoid delay and ensure correct delivery, all letters should
be addressed, Henry James Tresidder, 17, Ave Maria-lane,
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PARALYSIS and EPILEPSY.—The
NATIONAL HOSPITAL for the PARALYSED and
EPILEPTIC, 24, Queen-square, Bloomsbury, is OPEN for
Out-Patients suffering from these direful diseases. Funds are
urgently needed, to enable the Board to place additional
beds for In-Patients. Dr. Brown Séquard attends on Mondays
and Wednesdays; Dr. Ramskill on Tuesdays and Fridays,
at 1.30.
Donations and Subscriptions are earnestly solicited, and will
be gratefully received by the Secretary, at the Hospital, or at
the Union Bank, City; or Messrs. Coutts, Strand.
GEORGE REID, Sec.

DEPOSIT, ASSURANCE, and DISCOUNT
BANK.
FIVE PER CENT. on Sums for fixed periods or at
seven days' notice, or Three per Cent. at Call.
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Wednesday evenings from Six to Eight.
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FIRE, LIFE, and ANNUITIES.

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OFFICE—50, St. Ann's-street.

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The Annual Meeting of the Shareholders was held on the
21st October, 1859. THOMAS B. FORWOOD, Esq. Deputy-
Chairman in the Chair. The Meeting was numerously and
influentially attended.

From the Directors' Report it appears that the New Income
for the year exceeded 20,000l.; and after payment of Losses by
Fire, expenses of Management, and the expenses necessarily in-
curred in opening the Branches and Agencies, a balance of
9,500l., in favour of the Company was shown on the year's
transactions.

FIRE DEPARTMENT.

The large extension of New Business in this Department is
shown by the following comparison between the first two and
the third and fourth Quarters of the year:—

In the Two First Quarters the Amount Assured was £1,753,000

In the Third and Fourth Quarters the Amount was 3,877,000

Exhibiting an increase of £2,118,000

And making the Total Amount Assured with the
Company during the Year £5,636,000

LIFE DEPARTMENT.

The same gratifying progress has been made in this as in the
Fire Department.

Assurances of every description dependent on human life, at
rates of premium commensurate with the risk, and as low as is
consistent with safety.

SPECIAL FEATURE.—Non-forfeiture of Policies, as explained
in the following clause:—In case of the Assured being desirous,
from any cause, to discontinue the Premiums on an ordinary
life policy, the Company will, after the Policy has been in force
three years, grant a paid up Policy, for the total amount of
Premiums paid in, and any Bonus that may have been added.

LOANS.—Advances are made by the Directors to eligible parties
on personal security combined with a Life Policy.

Every information on the business of the Company may be
obtained on application at the Chief or Branch Offices, or to
any of the Agents of the Company.

Application for Agencies requested.

W. P. CLIREHUGH, Manager.

H. B. TAPLIN, London Secretary.

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JESSE HOBSON, F.R.S.S., Secretary.

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Insured against by an Annual Payment of 3*l.* to the
RAILWAY PASSENGERS' ASSURANCE
COMPANY,

which secures 1,000*l.* at death, or 6*l.* weekly for Injury.
ONE PERSON in every FIFTEEN of those insured is in-
jured yearly by accident of some description.
No EXTRA premium for Members of Volunteer Rifle Corps.
No charge for Stamp Duty.
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Agents, the Railway Stations, and at the Head Office.
This Company ALONE, without union or amalgamation with
any other Company, has paid in

COMPENSATION £53,000.
WILLIAM J. VIAN, Secretary.
Railway Passengers' Assurance Company,
Office, 3, Old Broad-street, London, (E.C.)

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LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY,
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Incorporated 1847.

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is shown by the success attained by Societies so formed; by
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their profits to the assured—"Thus affording them NEARLY ALL
the advantages of a Mutual Assurance Office." But in the
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PANY, not only NEARLY ALL, but ALL such advantages belong
to the assured. The Management of the Company is under
their sole control, and the whole of the profits are theirs—
while the assured are entirely free from responsibility, inas-
much as each policy limits the claim under it to the funds of
the Company exclusively.

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Annual Income £259,335

Accumulated Fund, consisting of the Premiums re-
maining after payment of all claims on policies
and three bonuses, and being nearly 60 per cent.
of the whole premiums received on all existing
policies £165,145

The business of the present year to 24th April exceeds that
of the corresponding period of last year by £23,200.

Persons assuring during the present year will be entitled to
share in the bonus to be declared up to 31st December, 1860.

No extra premium is charged to members of Rifle Corps
serving in the United Kingdom.

April, 1860. JAMES INGLIS, Secretary.

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after application, for two years, one year, or six months (repay-
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observed.

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Forms of application and prospectus (gratis) on receipt of a
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the ELECTRO-PLATE MANUFACTURING SILVER-
SMITHS, BRONZISTS, &c., beg to intimate that they have
added to their extensive Stocks a large variety of new designs
in the highest class of art, which have recently obtained for
them at the Paris Exhibition the decoration of the Cross of the
Legion of Honour, as well as the "Grande Médaille d'Honneur"
(the only one awarded to the trade).

The Council Medal was also awarded to them at the Exhibi-
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Each article bears their mark, E. and Co., under a Crown, and
articles sold as being plated by Elkington's patent process
afford no guarantee of quality.

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45, Moorgate-street, }
29, College-green, Dublin,

And at their Manufactory, Newhall-street, Birmingham.

Estimates and Drawings sent free by post. Replating and
Gilding as usual.

REDUCTION OF TEN POUNDS PER TON IN THE
PRICE OF

THORLEY'S FOOD for CATTLE on and
after the 1st of APRIL, 1860.

Barrels containing 448 Feeds, weighing nett 112 lbs., with
measure, 40*s.* each.

Cases containing 448 Feeds, weighing nett 112 lbs., in Packets,
45*s.* each.

Carriage paid to any Railway Station in the Kingdom.

Nutritive Value £15

Condimental Value 12*s.*

Total £140 per Ton.

Showing a profit of £100 per Ton, through the use of this in-
valuable compound, adapted for the seasoning of all kinds of
food for animals.

Agents required in every Town where none are already ap-
pointed.

JOSEPH THORLEY, the Inventor and Sole Proprietor.

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A Pamphlet sent free by post on application.

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SPARROWS.

BARBER'S POISONED WHEAT kills Mice
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Packets, with directions and testimonials. No risk nor danger
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ton and Co., Bow-church-yard; B. Yates and Co., 25, Budge-
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Capital, TWO MILLIONS Sterling.

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ANNUAL	FUNDS IN
REVENUE	HAND
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£300,000.	£700,000.



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Nearly the Largest Company in the World.
Liberal Settlement of Claims, amounting annually to
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Large Bonus declared £2 per Cent. per Annum on the Sum
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Division of Profits every Five Years, to Policies then
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No Extra Premium to Volunteers within the United Kingdom.

THE TIMES.
The City Article of the 24th July, 1856, states that "the
transactions of the Royal Insurance Company appear to have
been of a perfectly satisfactory character."

Article in the "Times" of the 6th August, 1859.

At the Annual Meeting of the Royal Insurance Company
yesterday the Report for the year 1858 stated that the premiums
received in the Fire department amounted to 196,148*l.*, showing
an increase of 60,088*l.*, or more than 50 per cent in three years.
A dividend of 3*s.* and a bonus of 4*s.* per share were declared,
free of income-tax, and 30,000*l.*, being the amount of undivided
profits, was carried to the Reserve Fund, now raised to
140,850*l.* In the Life Department 832 new Policies were
issued in the year, assuring 387,752*l.*, upon which 12,354*l.* was
received in new premiums.

WESLEYAN TIMES.

The affairs of this important Company evidently stand in a
sound and prosperous condition, and its operations have in-
creased, not through the purchase or amalgamation of other
undertakings, but from the valuable character of its own con-
nexions and highly efficient management.—August 15, 1859.

THE NONCONFORMIST.

When we consider the number of Insurance Companies which
have been brought into a short-lived existence within the last
few years, many of which have either transferred their business
to or amalgamated with others, and, sad to relate to the un-
fortunate shareholders, too many now winding up in Chancery,
it is gratifying to record the transactions of one of the most
successful assurance institutions in the United Kingdom.—
August 17, 1859.

THE PATRIOT.

The Annual Report of the Company presents its affairs in a
very favourable point of view.—August 18, 1859.

PERCY M. DOVE, Manager, &c.

T E A.

MOORE, BROTHERS, and COMPANY are
the only London Merchants willing to supply Families
direct at Merchants' Profits.

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The FINEST WEST INDIA—1*s.* 4*d.* per lb.

The FINEST EAST INDIA or MOCHA—1*s.* 6*d.* per lb.

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Travellers, nor Agents, give no Commission, suffer no Losses
either by bad debts or a Sugar Trade; but, as the drawbacks
under these various heads usually average about 10 per cent.
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prices of every house in the trade.

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guarantee them to be what they are represented.

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room Suite. Bachelors' Bed-rooms for 7*l.*, and Servants' Bed-rooms
for 4*l.* Illustrated Catalogue gratis, and free by Post. Goods
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dining tables, at 80*s.*; iron bedsteads at 8*s.* 6*d.*; every other
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FURNITURE BAZAAR, 30, 31, 32, and 99, CRAWFORD-
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Furniture complete, as well as every description of Bed-room
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THE Nonconformist.

"THE DISSIDENCE OF DISSENT AND THE PROTESTANTISM OF THE PROTESTANT RELIGION."

VOL. XX.—NEW SERIES, No. 758.]

LONDON: WEDNESDAY, MAY 9, 1860.

PRICE { UNSTAMPED .. 3d.
STAMPED 6d.

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Eccliaistical Affairs.

THE APPROACHING CENSUS.

WILL any one have the goodness to read to us, if he can, the riddle of our present Home Secretary's idiosyncrasy? Sir George Cornewall Lewis is an insoluble puzzle to us. His ordinary course is slow, sober, and sensible—but he varies it every now and then with the most gratuitous, unintelligible, and offensive blunders? What earthly motive, for instance, could he have had for setting up a lame defence of the Bible-printing monopoly? Why, when every decent man in the kingdom felt himself and his country degraded by that brutal pugilistic encounter between Sayers and Heenan, did the Home Secretary venture upon a laboured apology of prize-fighting? What has prevailed upon him to think of altering the mode of taking the decennial Census from that which the Registrar-General so satisfactorily employed in 1850-51; and, above all, why, when the absurdity of his proposed changes has been pointed out to him, does he persist in his stupid mistake? Is he a man of mere routine, who is sure when he comes to deal with anything that lies a little out of the ordinary ruts of officialism to put his foot into a mess? Or is he a pedant out of place? Or has he got unsuspected elements of mischief in him, which, like a lucifer-match, take fire when rubbed against a gritty surface? We have always thought, and still wish to think, of him as a man who means no harm; but, after all, the worst mistakes ever made by men in power are usually such as spring out of a profound ignorance of the feelings of those whom they undertake to govern. Sir George knows vastly more about books than men—and was more at home as a critic than he has ever been as a Cabinet Minister.

About this Census business, however, it will certainly conduce to the interests of his colleagues to prevent his having his own way. What is it he is bent on doing? Perhaps we should be telling no more than the truth, and the whole truth, as far as he is concerned, if we were to say he wishes to confer an obligation on the Bishop of Oxford. Dr. Wilberforce, as he took pains to let the public know, was deeply dissatisfied with the outcome of the last Census, in regard to religious accommodation and attendance. It stripped the Church of England of much of that shadowy grandeur which she had been accustomed to assume as the spiritual guide of all but an insignificant fraction of the people. It revealed the marvellous power of Christian willinghood both in and out of the Establishment. It exhibited Dissenters as nearly on a par, in point of numbers, with the worshippers at the Church, and as greatly exceeding them in the rapidity of their progress. Better still, it brought to light that immense stratum of English society which lay beyond the common means of all the religious communions. The Bishop of Oxford, very soon after the report of Mr. Horace Mann had made its appearance, attempted to cast discredit on the results of an inquiry which had done so little to illustrate the

wisdom or efficiency of the State Church principle. But he made so small an impression upon the public mind, that he appears to have considered it wise to drop further allusions to what, so far as related to the past, would admit of no remedy, and to lay his plans for the future with subtle caution. To his influence we believe we are right in ascribing the resolution of the Statistical Section of the Social Science Association, to press for more discriminating returns at the taking of the Census in 1860-61. Possibly, also, it is to his persuasiveness of tongue that we may attribute the innocent readiness of Sir G. C. Lewis to walk in the path which they had so kindly and thoughtfully traced for him.

Whether this be or be not a correct account of the steps by which the Home Secretary's decision has been brought about, it is certain that the decision itself is in perfect unison with the earnest desires of Samuel Oxon. So we are to have no inquiry this time into religious accommodation and attendance, which the Registrar-General might prosecute without offence to any one, and a knowledge of which we know, by experience, to be wonderfully quickening to spiritual enterprise—but, instead thereof, we are to have a misleading inquisition into "religious profession." That is to say, the master of every household in the kingdom is to be required, under a penalty, on the day specified by the Census Act, to put down on the paper to be left with him, not merely the name, age, sex, and occupation of every man, woman, and child, that slept under his roof on the preceding night, but the religious profession also. Such is the plan as it now stands, and the Home Secretary intimates that he means to stick to his plan. We find it necessary, therefore, to make an observation or two, in the purport of which we have already been anticipated by several journals, but by none with more power than by the *Daily News*.

1. There is a superfluous impertinence in asking, and especially in asking under legal menace, what a man's religious profession may be. It is terribly provocative of another question—"What's that to you?" And we fancy the answer to the second question would, if perfectly trustworthy, furnish the best possible proof of the impertinence of the first. We should like to put the Bishop of Oxford in the witness-box, and extract from him his real reason for desiring this information. On the supposition that by the pressure of law he can squeeze out the facts he wants to know, what public advantage does he hope to gain thereby? Would any better purpose than the gratifying of the idlest curiosity be served by docketing every person in the realm with the name of a religious denomination? Inquiries into the extent of accommodation for, and attendance on, public worship, are intelligible enough, for the knowledge which they elicit both stimulate and regulate Christian enterprise. But of what practical use would it be to map out with perfect accuracy of detail the area of population occupied by each of the religious sects? It would be curious and interesting, no doubt—so it would be to ascertain in how many families the father kisses his children when they bid him good-night. But, surely, unless it had some grave object to gain thereby, it would be gratuitously intrusive for the State to make the inquiry.

2. The information sought in this offensively prying manner will be given neither completely nor accurately. Thousands will refuse to answer. Tens of thousands will not know what the true answer should be. The number of persons who must necessarily be answered for by others—children, for instance, and in many cases servants—will mount up to millions. What answer are they to give who make no religious profession at all? We understand it is proposed to class all the varieties of religious and ecclesiastical distinction, into three categories—namely, Church of England, Protestant Dissenter, and Roman Catholic. Could any more

misleading device be invented? It is a capital plan, we admit, for swelling the nominal extent of the Established Church, because all who do not choose to rank themselves with Dissenters, or who cannot aver that they are Roman Catholics, will be compelled to rank themselves with the dominant sect. It has even been suggested to us that the whole body of Dissenters should return themselves as members of the Church of England, which, in a constitutional sense, they undoubtedly are—and could anything like unanimity be secured, we should like to see the suggestion carried out. But how utterly worthless will be returns which, owing to these and other causes, will be wholly unfit to be depended on! We can imagine nothing better calculated to bring the Census itself into contempt.

3. The uncalled for change which the Home Secretary has allowed to be palmed upon him by the Council of the Statistical Society, and which he, in turn, is endeavouring to palm upon the country, will break up the serial form of the returns, and render impossible the comparison of one period with another. Had the same method been pursued as in 1850-51, we should have been able to measure progress. On Sir G. C. Lewis's plan we must surrender that advantage.

But we refrain from further reasoning on so plain a point. The Bill is not yet passed. It must not be allowed to pass in its present form. It has been artfully framed for purposes of delusion. Mr. Baines, we see, has given notice of the required alterations in Committee. We entreat our readers to support him to the utmost, by instructing their representatives on the necessity and value of his amendments.

THE CENSUS BILL.

The Census (England) Bill did not come on Monday in the House of Commons, but the Committee stands adjourned to Friday next. The amendments to be proposed by Mr. Baines are as follows: Clause 4, line 29, leave out "religious profession." Page 4, after clause 8, insert the following clause:—"The Secretary of State shall, as far as is practicable, cause inquiry to be made and returns to be obtained of all places of worship, schools, and educational establishments, similar to those obtained in the Census of 1851, under the heads of 'Public Worship' and 'Education.'" Already a deputation—mainly of M.P.'s—has waited upon Sir G. Lewis, but they obtained nothing but vague answers to their remonstrances. The deputation was headed by Mr. Baines and Mr. Bright.

We understand that one deputation or more is likely to have an interview with Lord Palmerston to-morrow, (Thursday) at twelve o'clock, on the Census Bill, and trust that they will succeed in convincing him of the propriety of accepting Mr. Baines's amendments.

The following pithy statement of objections to the proposed Religious Census has been published as a handbill, for general circulation, and may be obtained on application to the Secretary of the Liberation Society, 2 Serjeants' Inn, Fleet-street, E.C.:

Next year the decennial Census of the population will be taken, and a bill authorising the necessary arrangements is now before Parliament.

This bill, if passed in its present form, will lead to a most important departure from the plan pursued in 1851. Then an account was taken of the number of places of worship belonging to each religious denomination, and also of the number of attendants on a particular Sunday; the number of schools, and of the scholars attending them, was also ascertained. The present bill does not provide for the collection of similar statistics next year; but it does provide that every occupier of a dwelling-house shall make a return, not only of the name, sex, age, and occupation, but also of the "religious profession" of "every living person who abode in every house on the night of Sunday, the 7th of April, 1861." A neglect, or refusal to supply this information will expose householders to a penalty of "not more than 5s. nor less than 20s., half of which is to go to any one who may act as informer!" The enumerators to be employed will also have authority to ask such questions as

they may think needful for filling up the returns, and a refusal to answer will be punished by a similar penalty.

Although the Government has silently introduced this important change, without giving any reasons for it, it is open to the gravest practical objections.

1. *The proposed inquiry is an impertinent one.* What right have the Government officials to question us about our religious, any more than our political views? Every hotel-keeper, every lodging-house keeper, every master, will be bound to put to anybody who may have slept in his house on the night of the Census-Sunday the prying query, "What's your religion?" and must insist on an answer, to save himself from a penalty. This would be objectionable under any circumstances; but it is doubly so when all that is necessary to be known about the religious condition of the people can be obtained in the same inoffensive, but efficient, manner as in 1851.

2. *The inquiry, while it will occasion great and unnecessary annoyance, will prove a failure.* Thousands of persons will flatly refuse to answer it, some from a conscientious belief that the State has nothing to do with religious opinions; others because they will not choose to comply with what they will deem an unwarrantable demand; and others from inability to define accurately what their religious profession is. The result will be, that the information actually obtained will be so imperfect that no conclusions of any value can be drawn from it.

3. *The answers which may be obtained will, in a very large number of cases, be utterly delusive.* Those who attempt to answer for the religious profession of others must, in many instances, do it at a guess. Large masses of persons never frequent any place of worship—or do not profess to belong to any religious body—or lead irregular or immoral lives. To attempt to catalogue the "religious professions" of these would lead to the grossest misstatements and evasions. To compel such to register themselves as being either "Churchmen" or "Dissenters," would be to delude the public, as well as to mislead the Legislature, in respect to measures bearing on the relative proportions of the various religious communities.

4. *This innovation, if it be persisted in, will be an occasion of dissension for years to come.* From the time of the passing of the Census Bill until the Census is actually taken, there will be, on the part of some bodies, earnest injunctions to disregard the requirements of the law, and, on the part of others, systematic efforts to turn the new mode of enumeration to account, so as to swell the number of their own nominal adherents, and to diminish that of rival sects. And when, at a great expenditure of labour, the results of this statistical conflict are made public, there will, in all probability, be great mutual recrimination, and the utmost exercise of ingenuity to prove that the Census, so far as regards the religious professions of the people, is altogether unworthy of credence!

Why not leave well alone? The last Religious Census offended no one, and has exercised a highly beneficial influence. To take the next Census in a different way will make comparison impossible, and so diminish its interest and utility. To take it in the way now proposed will make it a nuisance instead of an inquiry of great practical utility.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

SIR,—The Census Bill now before Parliament requires, I understand, as part of the return to be made, that a man declare (of course, under a penalty) what is his "religious profession."

This return is intended, I suppose, to supersede and stand as the equivalent of the enumeration made in last Census of the attendance at places of religious worship on one Sunday.

It may be very desirable to ascertain, if we know how, the amount of religion that is in the country. This information would be of incomparably greater value than even that supplied by the last Census respecting attendance at places of religious worship.

But the proposed form of return will make no approximation to a truthful statement of the religion of the inhabitants of England. And it will be utterly insufficient and false as an exponent even of the "religious profession" of the English people. For—

1. Many will not make the return at all, but will brave the penalty. I, for one, will never make that return at the demand of Government. The reasons I will state below.

2. Many will make a false return, calling themselves Churchmen, Dissenters, or otherwise, for merely party and political purposes, when they have not made any "religious profession" at all.

3. Many will make returns that are utterly worthless, calling themselves Churchmen because they have not made a "religious profession" as Dissenters, or calling themselves Dissenters because, although they have no "religious profession," what leaning they have is to the Dissenting party, for reasons quite distinct, perhaps, from those which ought to enter into a "religious profession."

4. Many will avail themselves of the proposed mode of return to vent their contempt and hatred of all religion. Suppose (what is very probable, and would be perfectly true, and in harmony with whatever "profession" they do make in religion) that the report shall contain such reports as these—Chartists, Secularists, Nature-Worshippers, Church-Forsakers, Priest-Haters, God-Haters, Anti-Church Protestants, Anti-Christians, &c., &c., will the authorised returns contain, when published, these very statements? or will they be tinkered and "cooked" into more decent and less profane phrase? In either case, what will be the worth of the returns?

But besides the utter insufficiency of the proposed returns—either as a statement of the real "religious profession" of the people, or as a proximate estimate of the religion of the people; the demand for such a return is intrusive and unwarranted on the part of the

Government. No Civil Government, especially no Civil Government in England, has the right to ask such a question.

"What is the difference," it will be said, "betwixt telling how many are present in the place of worship to which you belong, and telling to which religious party you adhere?" I answer: There is a very wide difference as respects the posture and action of the Civil Government in religion.

When a man goes to worship in any building, appropriated to that purpose, and forms one of a congregation assembled for worship, he performs an open act. He asserts a civil right. He uses his freedom which has been won for him in many a hard political fight. But it has been won. The doors of that place of worship may not be barred or locked while the congregation is in it, for the Civil Government must have opportunity of knowing that that assembly is not engaged in any counsel or work that is detrimental to the Commonwealth. The Government may, therefore, enter, by its agent, on any Sunday and count that congregation, as was done in the last Census. And that congregation, by aiding him in the enumeration, only consents to this supervision for the security of the Commonwealth, and courteously furthers a procedure which is for the interests of civil freedom.

But it is a totally different thing when the Government-agent enters my house, and assumes the right to ask me what "religious profession" I am of.

I decline to answer that question. It is a matter with which the Civil Government has no concern whatever. I hold my right and liberties as a citizen by no religious profession. Whether I am of one religious profession or another, or of none, the Government has no call to inquire. And when the demand is made on me to declare the one or the other, I, as a free citizen, refuse to comply with the demand. I withstand this sort of intrusion at the threshold. Let this inquisition be allowed, and a more inquisitorial scrutiny may follow. Make this concession, and upon it, as a basis, different forms of religious profession may be turned into marks of civil distinction and difference; the nation may be tempted and bribed to a "religious profession," or to one of a particular and favoured form.

If the return proposed could, with any probability, show the true state of religion in the nation, or even the comparative magnitude of religious bodies, one might be tempted, by a desire to know the actual state of things, to repress the constitutional objection. But the proposed return would be a twofold evil—it would produce a false and offensive report of the state of religion in England, and by unlawful means.

One of the members for Leeds (Edward Baines, Esq.) protested in his place in Parliament against this clause of the Census Bill. Other members of Parliament, to the number of fourteen, have met and remonstrated with Sir G. Cornewall Lewis against it—with what result remains to be seen. If their representation shall prove unsuccessful the people of England must take their rights and liberties into their own hands. There is a spirit of recusancy sufficiently strong to frustrate this attempt to draw religious profession under the supervision of the civil power.

Believe me, Sir,

Yours most respectfully,

JAMES R. CAMPBELL.

Bradford, Yorkshire, May 1, 1860.

MEETINGS OF THE LIBERATION SOCIETY.

We report below, at as great length as our space will permit, the annual meeting of the Council of the Liberation Society at Radley's Hotel, Bridge-street, and the evening *soirée* at the Whittington Club. The former was looked forward to with some little anxiety in consequence of the small majority on the third reading of the Church-rates Abolition Bill on the previous Friday. This apparent defeat, however, only rallied the leading friends of the society more numerous and heartily in its favour. There were about seventy members of the Council present; many of them from a distance, and more than one came upwards of 200 miles to testify unabated attachment to the society and its work. The chairman (W. Edwards, Esq.) struck the right keynote in his opening address, and indicated that the society was not at all disheartened by the late vote, but would have to consider whether their policy should not now embrace a wider field than the abolition of Church-rates; and we have no doubt that he was only expressing the actual fact when he stated his confidence that the great mass of the constituency would support the Executive Committee so long as they faithfully maintained the principles on which the society was founded, and exercised prudence and judgment in the conduct of the agitation. The admirable and elaborate report read by the secretary, Mr. Carvell Williams—which we regret presenting a graphic sketch of what has already been accomplished by the society, gives but a partial idea of the time, talent, and energy expended upon it. It may be said, without any fear of dispute, that the Liberation Society is the most perfect political organisation now in existence. None other keeps so

watchful an eye over the proceedings of Parliament. Its Parliamentary Committee is a permanent Committee of Vigilance. Every ecclesiastical bill brought into the Legislature is carefully examined, and canvassed; and warning is given of every fresh inroad upon the principle of religious freedom to the press, the public, and independent M.P.'s. It is the fashion in some quarters to attribute the late reverse on the Church-rate question to the action of the Liberation Society. Mr. Baxter, M.P., who may be supposed to know something of the springs of Parliamentary action, denies the connexion; and his view is supported by the remarkable fact, that of the Liberal members who were absent on the second reading of the Abolition Bill, nearly all were present to vote on Friday week. This result is mainly due to the pressure from without exerted by the watchful constituents at the suggestion of the society.

It will be seen from the treasurer's report that the income of the Liberation Society exhibits a steady increase. This year it is 500*l.* more than last year, which was 500*l.* beyond the preceding twelve-months. The total amount of income is now 3,788*l.* It may, perhaps, be said with truth, that the means of the society are proportionately more prolific in results than any other kindred association—a result due to the completeness of its organisation, its incessant activity and vigilance, and last, but not least, to the zeal and ability of its officials. It will be satisfactory to the friends of the society to know that its pecuniary means are less dependent than ever upon the donations of liberal friends, and to a greater extent drawn in small subscriptions from the increasing number of its supporters in every part of the kingdom. The plan of local agency has proved as beneficial to the funds as to the extension of the moral influence of the society.

To return to the meeting of the Council at Radley's Hotel. It will be seen that there was not the slightest inclination to bewail the past, or to call in question the acts of the committee. Indeed, the presentation of more than 5,000 petitions with over 600,000 signatures for the abolition of Church-rates, at the suggestion of the society, was a proof of influence and activity which spoke for itself. There was a general, almost a unanimous feeling, that the time was come for more energetic and direct action on behalf of the object for which the society was established. The tone of the meeting was serious and eminently satisfactory, and adapted to inspire the executive with fresh encouragement in their future course. It is evident from the spirit of the Conference that, if the committee should resolve on enlarging their plan of operations, and on making the carrying of the Church-rate Abolition Bill subordinate to outdoor operations on the main question, they will be supported by their constituents throughout the country. This question will, no doubt, be maturely considered by the committee during the next few weeks.

Not the least important question that occupied the short session of the Council was the religious census of 1861. One gentleman after another strongly denounced this impertinent proposal of the Home Secretary, and if this emphatic expression of feeling is a fair index of outdoor feeling, there will be a storm of disapprobation, before which Sir G. Lewis must, sooner or later, retreat.

The greater part of the members remained to dinner provided at Radley's Hotel, and subsequently discussed the wisdom of more accurately defining the views of the society relative to the revenues of the Church.

The *soirée* at the Whittington Club—where the society was born sixteen years ago—was numerously attended by ladies and gentlemen, but there was reason to complain of the inadequate provision made for them. The hearty enthusiasm of the audience was as much a surprise as the spirit of the morning's assembly. Mr. Whiteside has not yet succeeded in crushing the Liberation Society. We looked to the speech of the chairman with some interest, in consequence of the influential position he occupies on the Liberal benches of the House of Commons. Mr. Baxter, it will be seen, is in no way disheartened, expresses the best belief that the principles of the society are making steady and rapid progress, and advises that they shall be kept before the public. The hon. gentleman mainly accounts for the late defection of Liberals on the ground that the more moderate section desire to retain Church-rates as a Conservative hustings cry. His subsequent allusion to Mr. Bright elicited loud and continued applause, which may be interpreted as an expression of gratitude to the hon. member for Birmingham, for his masterly speech in support of Sir John Trelawny's bill.

We need not refer specially to the remaining speeches at the *soirée*.

THE COUNCIL MEETING.

W. EDWARDS, Esq., the treasurer, took the chair at one o'clock, and in opening the proceedings said the position of the society was never more important than at the present time. It had succeeded in eliciting a large amount of sympathy with its objects throughout the country, and its movements had made a deep impression on the Legislature. The aims of the society were more appreciated by the people, and better understood within the walls of Parliament. But while the importance of their position had increased, the responsibility of those who had the management of the affairs of the association had proportionably increased. It was not now so much a question of Church-rates, and of Dissenting grievances; because their opponents had taken their stand on the broad ground of resistance to the Liberation of Religion from State-patronage

and Control. It became, therefore, a question with the Executive Committee how far they could and ought to meet them on that wider field; whether they should not appropriate the resources with which they were intrusted, to a further enlightenment of the public opinion upon questions relating especially to their great object. (Hear.) The need of the continued exertions of the society was seen in the diminished majority on the Church-rates Bill, and the reception which had been given to Mr. Dillwyn's Endowed School Bill. The consequence of recent events might be the loss of a few members, but he was satisfied that the great mass of the constituency would support the Executive Committee so long as they faithfully maintained the principles on which the society was founded, and exercised prudence and judgment in the conduct of the agitation. (Hear, hear.) The fact of the large response which had been made to the committee's appeal for petitions in support of the Church-rate Abolition Bill, and the increase of the society's funds during the year, seemed to prove that this expectation was not unfounded. (Hear, hear.) The income had exceeded that of any preceding year—(Hear, hear.)—and the committee felt that their thanks were due to several friends for generous contributions, but it would be found that the increase had mainly arisen from the extended constituency which the society possessed at the present time. He was anxious to impress on every one of the friends of the society the fact that upon individual effort would, to a great extent, depend the further progress of their enterprise, while he trusted the organisation of their opponents would only stimulate them to further exertions.

Mr. CARVELL WILLIAMS, the secretary, then read the report of the Executive Committee. As this is a lengthened document we have not space for more than a condensation of it.

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

After some historical references, the report proceeded thus:—

The advocates of Voluntaryism have therefore reached a new stage of their great enterprise. Henceforward they may reckon upon the most determined antagonism instead of indifference or of contempt. The separation of the Church from the State is an idea of which politicians have at length come to have a distinct conception, while the fear with which it is regarded is an admission of the possibility of the event.

The influence of this feeling has already become apparent. It is now declared that Parliament must deal with ecclesiastical questions, less in accordance with their intrinsic merits, than with the political exigencies of the Church of England. Nothing is to be conceded to agitation the motive power of which springs from hostility to a Church Establishment. Wrongs are not to be redressed, and anomalies are not to be removed, if the position of the dominant sect will be thereby in any degree lowered. For the sake of the citadel, it is declared, there must be no surrender of the remotest outwork; and, as a struggle for existence is impending, it is urged that it will be wise to enter upon it now.

The Executive Committee do not complain of this state of things, nor are they in the least disconcerted by it. They who conscientiously regard the machinery of public law as a fitting instrumentality for the diffusion of the Gospel, may be expected resolutely to resist proposals to abandon it; while the classes whose personal interests are bound up with the Establishment will never desert it while it is capable of defence. The originators of this organisation from the first anticipated, sooner or later, the severest conflict as inevitable for the realisation of their aims; and if that conflict is now imminent, they rejoice, rather than are discouraged, that it should come so soon. It will, indeed, be needful for them to shape their future course with the utmost wisdom. They may be less sanguine in their expectation of immediate results. They may even lose the aid of some who had not counted the cost of such a warfare. But, in the end, it will be found that their progress, while apparently slower, has been surer than before; since the seeds of truth will be sown broadcast, as they have not been sown before, and every advance will be made with an intelligent consciousness on the part of the public of the point which will ultimately be reached.

After stating that this new zeal has been provoked by a desire to save Church-rates, the report describes the progress of the anti-Church-rate agitation down to last year.

It then became evident that the onus of rejecting the bill would be again thrown upon the Upper House; and that, if the principle of Church-rates was to be saved, some new mode of resistance must be resorted to. With this view, it was resolved to uphold Church-rates as an integral part of the Establishment; to excite the feelings of Liberal Episcopalians, by pointing to the ulterior designs of the abolitionists; and especially to inflame popular sentiment, by representing them as contemplating a gross violation of the rights of property.

It was to collect materials for this intended movement that the Duke of Marlborough last year moved for the appointment of a Select Committee professedly "to inquire into the present operations of the law and practice respecting the assessment and levying of Church-rates." Acting in the spirit in which it was appointed, that Committee examined numerous Episcopalians more or less in favour of Church-rates, but only such Dissenters as were likely to express opinions of the desired hue, or from whom could be extracted the particular information which it was the primary object of the inquiry to elicit. Hence it was that the two members of this society to whom such frequent reference has since been made came to be examined. They were summoned witnesses; examined by a hostile tribunal, bent on obtaining from them all that could afterwards be employed to prejudice the measures of which they were the advocates.

Under such circumstances, the Executive Committee, without feeling themselves responsible for opinions avowedly expressed by them in their individual capacity, think it due to Mr. Morley and Dr. Foster to declare that they do not share in the feelings of surprise or of regret which, in some quarters, have been expressed at the frankness with which those gentlemen acquainted

their lordships with facts and opinions which had been published from the very birth of this institution, as well as had been repeatedly alluded to in both Houses of Parliament. In their solicitude to maintain an unjust impost, their lordships have done more to call attention to the society's principles than the society itself had been able to do in fifteen years; and, whatever may be the immediate effect, the Committee believe that a spirit of inquiry has been evoked which will accelerate their ultimate triumph.

The pro-rate agitation during the recess is then described, together with the petitioning both for and against the bill, and the second reading and passage through committee.

The bill has since passed the House of Commons, but, to the great disappointment of the Committee, by a majority on the third reading not greater than nine votes. An analysis of the votes shows that this unexpected result is attributable, not to the increased strength of the opposition, who, in fact, had fewer votes than on the second reading, but to the absence, unpaired, of sixty members who had previously voted for the Bill—thirty-two of these being members for English, and twenty-two for Irish constituencies. It has not yet been possible to ascertain the causes of this serious defection at so critical a moment. To some extent it is doubtless attributable to accidental circumstances, while it may also be ascribed in part to a belief that the bill was no longer in danger. In any case the duty of Abolitionists outside the walls of Parliament is plain. They now know who may, and who cannot be relied upon for steady support, and it will be needful for them to convince their representatives that this is a question which will admit of no further trifling, and that, not occasional votes only in favour of the bill, will be deemed a satisfaction of hustings' pledges, but that there must be determined and persistent exertions to pass it into law.

It is declared that the compromise proposed by the Lords' Committee cannot be accepted.

While disclaiming all factiousness of motive, they adhere to the conviction that the only real corrective of the evils of the Church-rate system will be its complete extinction; that such a step will, in the end, be found most conducive to the spiritual interests of the Church of England; and that anything short of it will only prolong the agitation of which all parties profess themselves to be already weary. So sensible are the Committee of the facilities afforded to them by the existing law for leavening the minds of the people with Voluntary sentiments that, hard as they have striven for its repeal, they will prefer its continued maintenance to a new legislative sanction of coercion for ecclesiastical purposes.

The Endowed Schools Bills of Mr. Dillwyn, Sir H. Cairns, and Lord Cranworth, is next described.

The precise change effected, therefore, is, that while educational institutions, never intended to be the exclusive property of Episcopalians, will still remain in their hands, as regards the management and the master-ship, parents may object to their children learning any particular doctrines or formularies, except in the case where such teaching is expressly provided by the founders. The Legislature has, therefore, felt itself obliged partially to apply a principle, which as a principle it at present refuses to recognise. Inasmuch, however, as nothing but its complete recognition will secure the rights of Dissenters on a firm basis, the Committee—and they are glad to add, Mr. Dillwyn also—are prepared for further efforts for the attainment of that object.

The appointment of the Parliamentary Committee on the Bible-printing monopoly, and the recommendation of the committee that it be not renewed, is next adverted to.

This gratifying result the Committee believed to be in no small degree attributable to the singular ability displayed by the hon. member who took the conduct of the inquiry, and whose mastery of the facts of the case enabled him not merely to elicit weighty testimony against the existing system, but to extract the most serviceable admissions from its supporters.

As the representative of the Government on the Committee gave his vote in favour of the report it is assumed that the Government has determined to give effect to its recommendations, and that the interim patent, issued while the inquiry was pending, will shortly be cancelled by the Crown. The Executive Committee, therefore, hope that by the expiration of another year they shall be able to report the cessation in England, as well as in other parts of the kingdom, of this most objectionable exercise of the Prerogative.

The Lord Advocate's Annuity-tax Bill, and the opposition offered to it, having been described, the report says:—

It is now understood that the measure will not be persisted in; but, unfortunately, this is the result of a compromise assented to by the leading opponents of the Annuity-tax—a compromise going no further than a reduction of the amount of the tax, which will thus continue to outrage the feelings of those who object to such a mode of providing a sustenance for the ministers of religion. As the question is one of a local character, the responsibility of the mode of settling it does not rest with the Executive Committee, but it will be to them an occasion of deep regret if the Voluntaries of the North, instead of continuing to vindicate a principle, rest content with the mere abatement of a grievance.

The society's friends will be prepared for the statement that the operations of the past year, carried on under the circumstances already described, have involved an increase of expenditure as well as of responsibility. But the Committee have been saved from any consequent embarrassment by continuous improvement in the financial resources of the society. Last year the treasurer was able to report an increase of income to the extent of 500*l*. This year, notwithstanding that it has embraced eleven months only, that increase has been maintained, and there is again an increase of 500*l*.

After insisting on the necessity for raising funds to disseminate widely publications adapted to the present position of the question, the report thus concludes:—

If any special incentive to the adoption of such a course were needed it would be found in the state of feeling existing among the members of the Church of England in relation to events which every year become increasingly influential. Not only is the steady growth

of practical Voluntaryism among Episcopalians dispelling the fears of those who have hitherto doubted the self-sustaining power of Christianity; but, on the part of the laity, at least, there is an increasing desire to shake off the State restrictions which impede the free action of men more solicitous for the spiritual interests of their countrymen than for the political rights and immunities of an Establishment. Congregations are not likely always to remain in the state of helplessness which in one parish has begotten lawless violence; and, while the mass of the clergy resist any adaptation of ancient formularies and arrangements to modern exigencies, the worshippers will become more and more dissatisfied with a system which makes the least change perilous, and tempts ministers of religion to give a seeming sanction to much which, it is known, they cannot conscientiously defend.

It will be in proportion as the principles enunciated by this society are seen to have an important bearing on the perplexities of Churchmen, and its aims to be broad, unselfish, and truly Christian, that the denunciations and calumnies of those by whom it is now assailed will lose their power. It will then be felt that hostility to a politico-ecclesiastical institution is not incompatible with a genuine regard for religion; and, however great the difficulties apparently involved in abandoning the policy of past generations, there will be at least a disposition to discuss with calmness a question so deeply affecting the people's highest interests.

That period, however, may yet be distant, and hence there may be needed in time to come, on the part of the friends of this organisation, a degree of faith, of patience, and of courage, greater than has been called for in any of the previous years of its existence.

The Executive Committee, therefore, while looking hopefully to the future, have a deep sense of the increased responsibility now cast upon them in the direction of their great movement. They, however, reckon with confidence on a corresponding consciousness of duty on the part of those whose support has never yet been wanting; and they believe that, with the Divine blessing on their labours, the truth, of which they are the advocates, will prove stronger than the most powerful interests arrayed against it.

Several of the statements in the report were loudly cheered.

The TREASURER then presented his account, which showed that the subscriptions and donations amounted to 3,601*l* 14*s*. 9*d*., the total on that side being 3,788*l*. 7*s*. 2*d*. The payments amounted to 3,456*l*. 15*s*. 6*d*., and the balance in hand to 331*l*. 11*s*. 11*d*.

The Rev. J. H. RYLAND, of Bradford, moved:—

That the Council receive and adopt the report of the Executive Committee, whom it congratulates on the unabated vigour of their operations, notwithstanding the unprecedented opposition they have had to encounter during the past year. That it also rejoices at the steady growth of the society's influence, as well as the increase of its annual income.

He congratulated the Society that it had been forced by its opponents to look more to its principles than to details. Great advances had evidently been made in the public mind. The State-Church had done serious injury to religion and to its ministers. He gladly echoed the sentiments of the report, and cordially moved the resolution.

Mr. COLMAN (Norwich) seconded the resolution, and expressed his regret that the member for East Norfolk, after the pledge he had given to support Sir J. Trelawny's bill, was not in his place at the last division. His constituents in Norwich would bear the fact in mind when he required their support next time. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. C. REED said the report was one of the most important and interesting documents to which it had ever been his good fortune to listen. Anything more practical and courageous and inspiring they could not have had at the present time. The real object of the society, he believed, to have been much misunderstood and misrepresented in Parliament, and it should be distinctly stated that they had no desire to injure the Church of England, but only to disconnect it with the State. He considered that this society was deserving of the utmost support, and never more so than now.

Mr. S. MORLEY said, it was very important they should look carefully at the present position of this question, and the altered aspect it presented. He felt the more anxious concerning this, because unquestionably something he had said before the Committee of the House of Lords had been made use of, and to good purpose, by their opponents. He believed there was a preconceived plan in connexion with that committee, and that Dr. Foster and himself had been summoned with a view to extract from them statements to be made use of subsequently. (Hear.) He did not go as the representative of that or any other society; and it certainly never occurred to him to fence upon any of the questions put to him by the Bishop of London, or any of the fifteen peers who constituted the committee. (Hear.) He gave straightforward answers to straightforward questions. On looking at the evidence since printed, he must confess that some of his replies were baldly put, and he was not quite sure whether he gave adequate expression to the views he held, in common with the members of this society, with regard to the distribution of Church property. But it was, he thought, the wisdom of the society that there should be no mistake as to their real sentiments. (Cheers.) They had no desire for any spoliation of Church property, but only to deal honestly and righteously with it, on behalf of the nation. He told the committee distinctly that he believed he spoke in the interest of the Church of England itself when he said "Abolish Church-rates," because their retention will be certain to keep alive feelings of antagonism to the Church. He was more than ever anxious that this question should be dealt with on religious grounds, because he felt it to be a deeply religious question, and believed that, just in proportion as they satis-

fied the religious public that they were actuated by religious motives, and moved by religious convictions, that they would make progress. (Cheers.) And he was disposed to add, that only so far ought it to make progress; although he was by no means insensible to the political advantages that would flow to society from the separation of the Church from the State. He could not but feel, regarding the future operations of the society, that it was more than ever important that its movements should be wisely directed, when the attention of the public and of statesmen had been so largely drawn to it. (Hear, hear.) He would have the committee act in the spirit of the remarks made by the Rev. Thomas Binney twenty-seven years ago, at the laying of the foundation-stone of the Weigh-house Chapel, in which that gentleman expressed his conviction of the evils of an Established Church, and that the time was coming when the dissolution of Church and State would be effected. The following is an extract from Mr. Binney's address:—

The day that witnesses this will be a bright and blessed one. Episcopalians, Presbyterians, Independents, Methodists, may remain; but Churchmen and Dissenters will exist no more. All denominations, placed on a perfect equality, with a thousand sources of jealousy and animosity removed, each possessed of the power of advancing towards and admitting the approaches of the rest—such movements would ultimately be seen; the spirit of peace, and love, and unity would return; the real "communion of saints" would be practised; and God himself, on the throne of his glory, would rejoice over his once divided and broken, but then happy and harmonising "household." (Cheers.)

He was aware that the society could not take up the subject merely in its religious aspect, but its agitation could be conducted in a religious spirit. (Hear, hear.) He was satisfied that immense efforts would be put forth on the side of their antagonists, and trusted that the friends of this society would be in no wise lacking in energy. He was prepared as cordially as ever to assist the movement as far as he could. (Loud cheers.)

Dr. FOSTER did not consider that there was the slightest ground for discouragement in the division on the Church-rates Abolition Bill. The policy which had now been, as it were, forced upon the society, he believed would be the wisest and most judicious they could contrive. For himself he had never desired to conceal the real object of the society, and believed it to be the best course always to avow it. The evidence he gave before the committee was not extorted from him, but was given most readily.

Mr. DEPUTY PEWTRESS thought the fact that so many clergymen and churchwardens only had signed petitions in favour of Church-rates, proved that the parishioners in those parishes had not much sympathy with the rate. The Church-rate party were endeavouring to interest their young men in the question, and he wished this were done more on the other side. (Hear.) The times were favourable to the prosecution of the whole subject, and he trusted the work would be carried on with renewed energy.

The CHAIRMAN apologised for the absence of the Rev. John Burnet, on account of indisposition, and stated that Mr. Burnet desired him to express the unabated interest which he felt in the society.

Mr. E. S. ROBINSON, of Bristol, moved:—

That the Council expresses its admiration of the energy and promptitude displayed by an unprecedented body of petitioners in support of the bill for the entire abolition of Church-rates; and it also appreciates the firmness and tact displayed by Sir John Trelawny, Bart., M.P., in pressing the measure once more through the House of Commons. That the Council, while it deeply regrets the absence, unpaired, on the third reading of the bill, of sixty members of the House of Commons who had previously voted in its favour, and the plea thereby furnished to the Upper House for a second time rejecting it, declares its determination to accept neither the compromise offered by a Committee of their Lordships' House nor any other, whereby fresh sanction will be given to the employment of coercion for the maintenance of religion.

He believed that the cause of the reduced majority in favour of the Church-rate Bill would be found in this, that whereas a large proportion of those who voted in the majority for the second reading and upon former occasions voted for the abolition of the Church-rate as an excrescence on the surface of the Establishment, they now regarded it as the destruction of a buttress of that Establishment. Formerly abolition was viewed as the excision of a tumour; now it was regarded as the amputation of a limb. Those who were engaged in this conflict were no raw recruits, but veterans in the service, and would be prepared, not simply to do battle with Church-rates as a grievance, but a large portion of them would be prepared to do that which they were trying to accomplish, viz., to take the hand of the law off everything in the shape of religious opinion. (Hear.)

The Rev. I. J. DOXSEY having briefly seconded the resolution, and Mr. E. W. WHITEHURST having expressed a hope that, much as the practice might be disliked in some quarters, there would be more than ever correspondence between constituencies and their members, so as to prevent desertion on a future occasion,

Mr. MIALI said he had been extremely gratified by the tone of the Council on what some considered to be the recent disaster, but which he considered to be no disaster whatever. (Hear, hear.) Although he would have preferred to have had the bill read a third time by a majority of 70, and should have regarded the event as indicative of the progress and the power of the Liberation Society, the unexpected diminution of that majority had done nothing to dishearten him. They had taken up the subject of Church-rates, not on account of its intrinsic importance, but simply as an instrument for the furtherance of that great object which they all pro-

fessed to have in view when they instituted that association. (Hear, hear.) There could be no question that, had they carried triumphantly the abolition of the rate, they would have been placed for some time to come in a position of some embarrassment as to the best mode in which they could carry on their movement. (Hear, hear.) Abolition of Church-rates was desirable simply because it would take the discussion of a great question out of the atmosphere of personal and social animosity, and put it into a higher sphere, where it might be calmly debated. But, inasmuch as the clergy of the Establishment preferred to discuss the principle of a State-Church, upon the narrow basis of Church-rates, the members of the Liberation Society could have no possible objection to such a decision. (Hear, hear.) The subject had given them a strong ground with those who could not be brought to take an interest in the abstract question, and it would be difficult to select a point upon which more advantageously to reason out their principles. The recent decision would prove to be a great advantage if it sent them back to a more searching, studious, religious, and prayerful study of, and confidence in, their first principles. (Cheers.) If they had one reason more pressing than another for their action it was this, that they believed, from their knowledge and appreciation of the spirit and genius of Christianity, that the introduction of the element of civil law into the management of the things of the kingdom of Christ was greatly detrimental to the interests of religion, and, consequently, in a large degree dangerous to the souls of men. He saw every reason for anticipating advantage rather than injury to their cause from having the subject debated before the country on its broadest grounds, and was sure that their cause, if not immediately triumphant, would be like the path of the just, shining more and more unto the perfect day. (Cheers.)

The resolution having been carried, Mr. H. R. ELLINGTON moved, and the Rev. W. BEAN (Worthing) seconded:—

That, in the judgment of the Council, it is essential that any measure regulating the ancient Endowed Schools should recognise the equal rights of all classes to participate in the management, the masterships, and the teaching. That, in accepting the imperfect concession offered by the Act of Lord Cranworth, the Council approves of the resolution of the Executive Committee to renew their exertions in support of the bill of Mr. Dillwyn, whose earnest services in connexion with this question the Council gratefully acknowledge.

The mover said that the subject was a very interesting one, but the rapidity with which time was passing precluded his saying more than a few words upon it. The motion having been carried,

The Rev. W. ALLEN (Oxford) moved the next resolution:—

That the Council expresses its satisfaction at the emphatic condemnation, by a Parliamentary Committee, of the restrictions hitherto imposed in this part of the Kingdom on the printing of the Scriptures. That it desires warmly to acknowledge the ability displayed by Mr. Baines, M.P., in the conduct of the inquiry, and recommends the adoption of such measures as may be needful to insure the adoption by the Government of the recommendations of the Select Committee.

He urged that the vigilance of the Christian public was the best guarantee for accuracy.

The Rev. RICHARD H. SMITH (Surbiton), in seconding the resolution, said, referring to the previous discussion, that he was convinced that there was a large amount of Christian feeling in the country which could be evoked in favour of their object, if thoroughly Christian means were adopted for the purpose. The motion was then carried.

Mr. CHARLES MIALI wished that the council should avail itself of the opportunity for passing a resolution on a subject of pressing importance, viz., the approaching Census. (Hear.) He proceeded to describe the nature and bearing of the provision in the Census Bill for taking the "religious profession" of the population; expressed his belief that its results could not be otherwise than misleading; that the proposal to include all under the heading "Churchmen, Dissenters, or Catholics" would probably give the former at least two-thirds, including the inmates of workhouses, gaols, the army and navy, and the Conference Methodists, who repudiate the designation "Dissenters." Penalty or no penalty, he should himself refuse to answer these impertinent questions at the demand of the State, and had no doubt the great body of Dissenters would pursue that course. The speaker also referred to the loss that would be sustained by the absence of the statistics of attendance at places of worship that had proved so valuable in 1851. He concluded by moving the following resolution:—

That this Council regrets to find in the bill for taking the Census of 1861 words requiring from all persons, under a penalty, a statement of their "religious profession." That it regards this demand as not only uncalled for, but as an unwarrantable inquisition into personal opinions, and as being certain to prove seriously misleading in its results. Believing that the inquiry would be resisted, or evaded, by a large portion of the population, and, at the same time, that the statistics so obtained would, however imperfect, be employed for party purposes, the Council urges the necessity for expunging the objectionable provision, and the desirableness of again obtaining similar interesting and useful statistics of religious accommodation and attendance to those furnished at the last Census, which proved to be entirely adequate for the purpose.

The Rev. F. TRESTRAIL, in seconding the resolution, said he thought the subject to be of even more importance than the Church-rate business. It was surely most extraordinary that recourse should be had to such a system at this time of day. He trusted the determination of Mr. Miall to decline to reply to the insulting question it was proposed to ask would be imitated by the general body of the Nonconformists of the country. (Hear, hear.) The very foundations of religious liberty were involved in the matter. (Hear, hear.) And then, who were to answer the questions? The head of a family frequently could not state the religious opinions of every member of it, and the difficulty would be still

greater with reference to the servants of the household. But who could doubt that many a member of the State-Church, who had a large establishment, would return his servants as belonging to his own denomination, without ever asking them a question upon the subject. (Hear, hear.) The whole thing was abominable to the last degree. (Hear, hear.) The whole force of the society should be bent against it. A more artfully devised scheme for a sectarian object he had never heard of. He hoped it would be defeated, but at all events no reply would be given by him to the questions.

Mr. John Templeton, the Rev. Mr. Ryland, Mr. Butler, of Childerditch, Mr. Wright, of Birmingham, and Mr. E. Clarke, of Walthamstow, supported the resolution.

The Rev. Mr. BEAN suggested that it would be desirable to advise the Nonconformists of the country how to act in the matter, and inquired whether deputations of gentlemen now in London from the provinces, to the Home Office, would be of any practical value?

The CHAIRMAN said he was glad the subject had been introduced. If the resolution should be adopted the Executive Committee would of course endeavour to assist in carrying out its object. Mr. Baines had already given notice of his intention to move certain amendments in the bill quite in the spirit of the resolution before the conference.

Mr. E. MIALI thought that provincial deputations to Sir G. C. Lewis would be of service. They could point out to him the inconvenience of the scheme, as well as the unsoundness of the principle on which it proceeded, and make it manifest that the plan would not even answer the purpose for which it was designed.

Mr. WILLIAMS advised every one at once to write to his representative, urging him to be in his place in the House to support Mr. Baines's amendment.

At this stage the members of the Council adjourned for dinner, after which the remaining resolution in the programme was submitted by Mr. J. CRIPPS (Leicester). It was as follows:—

That the Council, while regarding with satisfaction the wide publicity lately given to the principles and purposes of the society, and believing that the resistance which it has now to encounter will ultimately prove conducive to success, feels it to be essential that the Executive Committee should receive the most earnest support of all the friends of Voluntaryism in carrying on their future operations.

He said that he felt sure that the friends of the society would, for the future, feel themselves to be more than ever committed to the work, and bound to support the Executive in the discharge of their onerous duties.

Mr. E. ASHWORTH BRIGGS (Daventry), who seconded the motion, also urged the importance of enlarging the sphere of the society's operations, and pledged himself to exertions to obtain new members. He availed himself of the opportunity to refer to a recent case of refusal to bury, the suffering family being Wesleyans. Such cases were well calculated to bring out the latent Liberalism of the Wesleyan body. (Hear.)

Mr. STEVENSON (Leicester) urged the importance of a practical exposition of the society's objects, especially in relation to Church property. The Rev. J. H. RYLAND said there had never been uncertainty as to their wishes in respect to Church property, but details were wanted. Mr. ROBINSON (Bristol) recommended the perusal of Mr. Miall's two lectures on the subject, lately delivered at Bristol. Mr. BARRY (Brill), Mr. BUTLER (Childerditch), and Mr. EDWARDS also spoke briefly on the point, and Mr. CUNNINGTON urged the increased importance of increased practical effort on the part of voluntaries to show the efficiency of their own principles. The motion was then carried.

The Rev. A. BURDETT (Warwick), and Mr. BOARER (Folkestone), proposed that thanks be given to the treasurer, not only for his services that day, as chairman, but for his continuous devotedness to the society's interests.

THE SOIREE.

A large and highly respectable company of ladies and gentlemen assembled to tea at six o'clock, at the Whittington Club, Strand. At seven o'clock, at chair was taken by W. E. Baxter, Esq., M.P.

The CHAIRMAN, in opening the proceedings, said he had very great pleasure in expressing his entire concurrence with the great object the society sought to promote. Notwithstanding the diminished majorities in the House of Commons in favour of the abolition of Church-rates, and the increased zeal manifested by Churchmen for the maintenance of a State Church, his conviction was still strong that the principles of the society were making most general, gratifying and remarkable progress. (Applause.) Last year he listened to a glowing eulogium from Mr. Walpole, as upright and consistent a politician as there was in the House of Commons—and both before and since that remarkable speech of his, in introducing the Church-rate Bill of the late Government, there had been frequent laudatory allusions in both Houses to the power of spontaneous liberality in religious matters, as evinced not only by Dissenters, but by Churchmen themselves. The object of the society had only just begun to be understood by the leaders of public opinion. The impossibility of obtaining more grants to the Church of England out of the public funds; the admirable working of Voluntaryism, especially in large towns; the ease with which large sums of money were raised for the erection of churches and chapels; the noble example of the Church of Scotland, which had raised nearly five millions sterling since the disruption of 1843; the fact that a State-church had become a simple impossibility in the colonies; the acts

of the colonial legislatures on the question—those were only a few of the many signs of the times which had unsettled the minds of Church people in regard to their own principles and the tenability of their ancient stronghold, and had led them to recognise the existence, if not the power, of an idea more manly, vigorous, and active than that which actuated the great ecclesiastical establishments of Europe; or, as Mr. Whiteside would say, which founded the temples of Athens and of Rome. (Cheers.) Of this he was convinced, and it was becoming increasingly manifest, that Christianity must be carried into every part of the earth, not by compulsory power, but by the voluntary principle, which it was their business that evening to advocate. (Hear.) In the United States there was far less of the *odium theologicum*, and that acrimonious, sectarian spirit which existed in this country, because there was no one sect which was elevated above another. There were also more churches in that country, in comparison with the population, than in England—even in the thinly populated provinces of Illinois, the wheat lands of Wisconsin, and far up the majestic rivers of North America. He would say to all terrified Tories and half-timid Liberals—(Hear, hear)—that the abolition of Church-rates was not a measure calculated to weaken the Establishment. (Cheers.) On the contrary, it must be evident to every thinking man that the removal of an old, a felt, and a crying grievance, must rather strengthen than weaken the Established Church. The worst enemy of the Establishment could desire nothing better than that every abuse should be perpetuated, and every source of discord permitted to send forth its turbulent streams. (Hear, hear.) Ecclesiastical, like political institutions, could best be preserved by conforming them to the spirit of the times. The friends of that society were not the worst enemies of the Establishment, but such men as Mr. Newdegate, who said he would not touch her with his little finger, but that with all her abuses he would let her alone. (Hear, hear.) With regard to the diminution of the majorities in the House, it had been said that they owed that diminution to the action of the Liberation Society, and the evidence given before the Committee of the House of Lords. He did not believe a word of it. Some half-hearted Liberals had been scared at a spectre. Such persons did not believe in the principles of the society; they had never sifted them; they were as much afraid for the old fabrics, or rather more so, than their Conservative brethren. The great difficulty with them seemed to be that if Church-rates were abolished they would be deprived of their main hustings cry, and that the line of demarcation, which very imperceptibly existed in many boroughs between the Whig and the Tory, would be taken away. That was the main cause of the absence of many of their friends from voting on a late occasion. (Hear, hear.) The principles of the society were making steady and rapid progress. Their Free Church friends had become excellent volunteers in principle, and many members of the Scotch National Church regarded the question as one only of time, and remained in the Establishment more from the force of habit and affection than from any doubt that the voluntary principle itself was true and sound, and must in the end prevail. (Hear, hear.) Let it be theirs, then, to keep their principles before the public with determination, and at the same time with moderation; not terrifying men when they could lead them; and he had no doubt that if they acted firmly, conscientiously, and at the same time judiciously, as he believed the society was doing, that as years rolled on, its universal adoption would only be rendered more certain and more secure. (Loud applause.)

Mr. C. WILLIAMS then gave a comprehensive and lively *résumé* of the report read at the morning meeting, and concluded by a reference to the fact that sixteen years ago, that very week, and on that very spot, the society was called into existence. They had revisited the place of their birth; not as a sick man to die, but that they might breathe again their native air, and go back stronger than ever for their work, cheered by the consciousness that God had already blessed them in it. (Loud cheers.)

J. J. COLMAN, Esq., of Norwich, moved:—

That this meeting rejoices at the evidence afforded during the past year of the extent to which public opinion has been influenced by the exertions of the society, and of the growing confidence reposed in it by the friends of Voluntaryism throughout the country; while it congratulates the Executive Committee on the unabated vigour of their operations, notwithstanding the unprecedented opposition they have had to encounter.

After the statement which had just been made there could be no doubt that this resolution would receive the cordial support of the meeting. Every friend of religious liberty, who had observed the working of their society, must feel greatly indebted to those gentlemen who had carried on its operations. There could not have been such concerted action as had recently been witnessed in the recent presentation of anti-Church-rate petitions, without such an organisation. (Hear.) With respect to the division on Sir John Trelawny's bill, he was of opinion that it supplied, after all, grounds for congratulation. Measures that were ultimately very successful had been rejected by Parliament before now; and they might be sure that if they persevered in this work many hon. representatives would change their opinions, or other gentlemen would be found to take their places, and they would not be absent when a Church-rate division was to come on. (Hear, hear.) He was very glad to find that the committee were not prepared to allow the subject of Endowed Schools to drop, and the meeting might be interested in knowing that recently in the city of Norwich six Dissenters—of whom he was himself one—had been

appointed to manage such a school. The resolution made reference to the unprecedented opposition which had, during the past year, been offered to the society. He did not himself regret the opposition, and expected that it would have to meet with even more determined opposition than any it had hitherto encountered. Their opponents were now roused, and the wonder was that they had been so long in waking up. The society had not changed in the least. It promulgated still the principles on which it was formed, and which had always been frankly avowed. The reduction of the majority on the Church-rate question had put a spirit into their opponents which they must be prepared to meet, and he was sure that the executive of the society would not be backward in the discharge of the duties now devolving upon them. All that was necessary was that each individual member should do his duty. They might all take encouragement from the past, and in the remembrance that they stood in a far better position, as regarded their great object, than before. A great deal had been said, of late, upon the subject of Christian union, but he believed that this would never be effectually brought about and placed on a firm basis still the Church should have been severed from the State. (Cheers.)

The Rev. J. H. HINTON begged the meeting to accept his presence as a token of his unabated attachment to this society. Such a platform was no place for an invalid, and he had left his bed to be there. The feeble state of his health would have kept him away, had he not felt a very strong desire to be present. As for the "crisis," as it was called; he cared not a straw for it. (Cheers.) It seemed as if those hon. and right hon. gentlemen in one and another place thought that the question of the abolition of Church-rates lay with them—the simpletons! (Laughter and cheers.) Did they not know that the battle was to be fought in the parishes? And he was himself quite as willing that the battle should be fought there, as in the Houses of Parliament. It had been already partly won, and ultimately they would be completely triumphant there, if not in Parliament first. (Cheers.) At any rate, however, the cause went on; this was his own determination—to die in harness. (Cheers.) He had fought the battle from his youth and would contend to the last against the evil thing. If it were his dying breath he was speaking, he would enunciate this cause, as firm as ever in its advocacy, to younger men, assured that they or their successors would live to see it triumphantly successful. (Loud cheers.)

The Rev. W. H. BONNER, as one who had been associated with the society from its commencement, rejoiced in the progress which had been made. He regarded the society as essentially religious in its principles and in its object, and as a Christian minister was deeply sensible of its importance. He had always felt it to be a Christian duty to oppose the principle of a State Church as unjust in its operation. He asked nothing from the State as a Christian that was not done to him as a man; and the only aim of the society was to leave every man free to enjoy his own religious opinions and pay, out of his own, and not out of his neighbour's pocket, for the maintenance of it. He ascribed the progress which had been made very much to the simple honesty of their aim, which must be apparent to all who fairly considered it. The aspect of religion itself in the land at the present time was very gratifying. Much had been said about revivals of religion, and some good people were rather afraid lest this society should impede the progress of that revival. But his own opinion was that the increased attention to voluntaryism in religion has had much to do with the progress of the revival which had taken place. (Hear, hear.) And he believed that it would only be sound, extensive, and permanent in proportion to the enlightenment of men's minds in this matter.

The resolution was unanimously agreed to. In putting it,

The CHAIRMAN said that the Council had that morning passed a resolution with reference to the Census of 1861, and the friends of the Dissenting interest in the House of Commons had not been altogether inactive. He quite agreed that the question, "What is your religious profession?" was one which ought not to be put, and which a great many would refuse to answer. He had formed one of a large and influential deputation of members, headed by their old friend, Mr. Bright—(loud cheers)—which waited upon Sir G. C. Lewis, to urge upon him that view of the question. He believed the Home Secretary had been deceived in regard to the matter, and had put himself into the hands of the Church party, who were so astounded at the results of the last census, that they wished to turn the tables upon Dissenters, and had, therefore, induced the Government to leave out the inquiries with reference to the congregations, their object being to be able to add to the adherents of the Established Church the whole of the population who had no religious opinion at all.

HANDEL COSSHAM, Esq., of Bristol, moved the second resolution—

That, while encouraged by the advanced position of the movement conducted by the society, the meeting has a deep sense of the increased responsibility now cast upon its Executive Committee, and of the necessity for affording to them on all occasions faithful, energetic, and liberal support.

He never asked whether a question was popular, but—is it right? (Hear, hear.) He had no doubt whatever that the object which this society had in view was a right object, and therefore he expected that the time would come when a bill for the abolition of Church-rates would obtain a far greater majority than had lately been obtained. He was much encouraged by the fact that this question excited a far more general interest in the country, among all

classes of the people, than it did a few years ago. They could now discuss them on any platform in the kingdom; while hon. gentlemen in Parliament had got so accustomed to discussion on the subject that they almost seemed to like it. (A laugh.) And the friends of Voluntaryism possessed more confidence in their own principles than they used to manifest a few years ago. (Hear, hear.) He wished to express his sense of respect for those who composed the Executive Committee of this society, and his gratitude for the wisdom, talent, and piety they had manifested in the conduct of its affairs. (Cheers.) He trusted that its friends would not be backward in according to them all necessary support during the ensuing year. There never was a society so managed as more thoroughly to commend itself to public support. (Hear.) The decision of the question which its friends had at heart would depend very much upon the character of the House of Commons, and that again would greatly depend upon the character of the Reform Bill which should be passed. (Hear.) He hoped, therefore, that, as a means to an end, the friends of religious freedom would keep their eyes steadily fixed on the subject of Parliamentary Reform, and do all in their power to pass a good bill into law. He hoped their opponents would no longer be able to say the country felt no interest in the question. He ventured to say that the present House did not represent the country; or else, instead of having a majority of nine the other night, they would have had a majority of ninety-nine. (Loud cheers.) He wanted the friends of Voluntaryism in the country to take an interest in getting one gentleman into Parliament who had lately so ably represented them there, and who thoroughly understood the whole subject. (Loud cheers, and cries of "Mr. Miall.") The friends of this society must be thoroughly awake, for the churchwardens were waking up, and also the terrible archdeacons. But he undertook to send them all to sleep again if the friends of this society would send up 50*l.* extra from every archdeaconry in the kingdom. (Laughter.) Happily, the principles of the society were being considered by many Churchmen. Recently, at Clifton, a Church debating society made Voluntaryism a subject of discussion, and they did him the honour of asking him to state the views of the advocates of that system. He believed that before long there would be a remarkable movement in the Church itself on this great question; and he was firmly convinced that the Church would derive far greater advantages from the change than would Dissenters. (Cheers.)

EDWARD SWAINE, Esq., in seconding the resolution, said it became the committee to employ all available means for indoctrinating the public mind on this subject. The triumph of the Voluntary principle would be of unspeakable advantage to the country, and tend powerfully to the advancement of religious truth by giving Christian zeal freer room for action. He had been attached to the society from the first, and wished for its increased power and prosperity.

The resolution was unanimously adopted.

Mr. E. MIALL said that before he moved the resolution for which he had risen, perhaps the meeting would allow him to indulge himself for two or three minutes in making those observations which had occurred to him in consequence of that evening's visit to the place of their birth. It was impossible for him to pass through that meeting without drawing upon his memory for the materials of contrast between the tone of the speeches that had been delivered now—and especially the advance which had been made by the public mind in the knowledge of this question,—and those presented at the birth of the association sixteen years ago. He believed they were then regarded as dreaming fanatics, mischievous in their intentions, but probably likely to be entirely impotent in their action. It was thought that they would only be born to squall and die. (Laughter.) And now they were talked of with something like alarm, or, at all events, with a show of apprehension, by those who had exercised the power of Prime Ministers of the country; and they were told distinctly that measures of religious liberty should not be decided upon their own merits in that House, which is under the guidance of Lord Derby, whenever those measures originated with the Liberation Society. Well, that was something—it was a stage of the contest through which they had to pass. (Hear, hear.) Their opponents said they never knew when they were beaten—and that was true. (Cheers.) When men had got a principle of truth that they believed to be vital and divine—vital because divine,—and their own hearts were interested in that truth, simply because it is God's truth, they could not be beaten. (Cheers.) All Providence was working for them. All the events of modern times were, in some way or other, influencing the ultimate decision of this question. (Cheers.) Reference had been made to the Census. The Census would show a large increase of population, and the increase of population in this country was rooting out the principle of a State Church. That principle could not be extended and adapted to an increasing population unless public opinion was in favour of it; and public opinion was so far either indifferent to the matter, or recognised the power and vitality of the Voluntary principle, that the country would not consent to extend that which many regarded within a certain limit to be beneficial. The increasing population could only be provided for by the spontaneous energy of professing Christians. The little circles in which the endowments of the Church exist were being surrounded on every side by broad fields of population in which the Voluntary principle was the

only principle that could apply to the spiritual exigencies of the people; and could it be believed that as those fields were multiplied they would not also extend within those little spots where the Endowment principle professes to meet the wants of the population? He felt certain that, even if this association were to die now, the truths which it had sown in the public mind and the events of Providence conspiring, would of themselves bring down to the ground in this country—as had been already done in the colonies—all the machinery of State legislation for religion. (Cheers.) With regard to the Church-rate division he did not believe in the majority being so very small. He took into account the time of the year. Had the question been put in February the same majority would have been obtained as before. He had carefully gone through the list of the absentees, and he did not discover symptoms of defect. So large a House could not be got at this time of the year as at the commencement of the session. Nothing but a party whip of great strength could get the members together. The whip was used by the supporters of the rate, and yet they had ten less than before, but its opponents had nobody to whip for them, although most of the members of the Government voted for abolition. He must, therefore, still regard the division as a great victory. The battle was accepted as Establishment or no Establishment, and there was for the latter proposition a majority of nine. If that was being beaten, then he hoped they would have many such beatings. (Cheers.) But the truth was, the members of this association did not care very much about this Church-rate question. (Hear, hear.) They never had cared very much about it, except as a part of the larger question. They were glad that the House of Commons should, if it chose, make this question the battle-field of the larger principle. It was just what they wanted. If they could hang on a discussion of their large principle to that which always attracts the attention of Englishmen, namely, a practical grievance, they could not have a better platform for the promulgation of the truths and doctrines disseminated of this association. The defenders of Church-rates were a wise lot! Ecclesiastics were always wise in their generation! They never saw the signs of the times. They were as blind as bats to the events which were going forward. No doubt these men thought they had stopped, to a certain degree, the progress of the abolition of Church-rates. But they had done more than could have been done by the members of that association to advance its ultimate objects. They have put us (said Mr. Miall) on an elevated platform, and told us to preach our doctrines to bishops and princes. We have preached them, and we shall preach them still. We shall never shrink one hair's breadth from the full enunciation of the whole principle that we hold. (Loud cheers.) Whatever may become of Church-rates, depend upon this: in the first place, we will accept no compromise; and in the second place, that as long as Church-rates are continued we shall possess a most efficient instrument whereby to accomplish the ultimate objects that this association strives for. I rose to move a vote of thanks to Mr. Baxter for taking the chair on this occasion. I am not going to offend him by any references to the personal industry and zeal and ability which he has always brought to bear on questions interesting to the members of this association. I may say he is one of a small band in the House of Commons that ought to be very considerably increased. You must send men to Parliament who are religiously convinced of the truth of these principles. In our honoured friend who now occupies the chair we see a man who from religious convictions, confirmed by large observation, not in England only, but in the United States, has formed his conclusions in favour of the Voluntary principle, and has not only formed them, but has firmly expressed them by means of the press, and has thereby pledged his public character and consistency to uphold them whenever opportunity shall serve. That opportunity I am glad to know the constituency of Montrose has not only given him for some time past, but I believe will continue to give him as long as his life shall last. (Cheers.) We like to see him here, and I presume I may say that he does not dislike being here. I only hope we may have a great many members of his same stamp and calibre. And I trust when we come to a severe struggle in Parliament on the great principle of Church and State, that numbers of men thoroughly well qualified to take their part in that discussion will be found ready and anxious to fling abroad the light of truth from that high platform over the whole world. (Cheers.)

WM. EDWARDS, Esq., seconded the motion, which was carried amid applause.

The CHAIRMAN, in acknowledging, said he had derived very great pleasure indeed from the meeting.

THE LATE CHURCH-RATE DIVISION.—We understand that Mr. Knatchbull-Hugessen was prevented from attending in his place, and voting for Sir John Trelawny's bill, by the effects of a severe accident.

CHURCH-RATE PETITIONS.—The following is the return of the Petitions Committee up to May 2:—

	Petitions.	Signatures.
For Abolition ...	5,518	609,199
Against it ...	5,557	196,978

THE NEW PHASE OF THE CHURCH-RATE QUESTION.—We have advocated the abolition of Church-rates in the firm conviction that the cessation of the tax would strengthen the Church. We will say nothing that might be misunderstood about the advantages of removing a cause of irritation against the Church; but we find among the parochial clergy men de-

claring in speech and in published writings that the habit of looking at the externals of religion as something placed under the care of the law is fatal to the habit of giving in their peoples, and checks spontaneous revenues five times as valuable as the paltry sums raised by Church-rates. We have often stated at length our reasons for sharing this belief. But now we are told that the maintenance of Church-rates is essential to the principle of an establishment. It is not enough that Dissenters acquiesce in the enjoyment by one sect of endowments which are national; they must consent also to further taxation for objects which they do not approve. Is it to "strengthen the Church" that the Hales and Denisons and Marlboroughs insist on this claim? The arrogant revival of exaggerated pretensions can only have one result. It will make it plain to all impartial observers that Church-rates are prized not for the revenues they yield, but for the social ascendancy the power to levy them expresses. This is the way to unite not only all objectors but all lovers of freedom in opposition to the Church, for thousands who, like ourselves, do not believe in equality or honour it for its own sake, would strive earnestly for it, if it became the only way to liberty. —*Daily News*.

ARCHDEACON DENISON ON THE CHURCH.—The Venerable Archdeacon Denison has commenced his visitation of his archdeaconry for the present year. His charge is a very voluminous document, and is entirely devoted to comments on the present aspect of Church affairs in Parliament. The venerable gentleman laments that the time "is full of causes for deep anxiety," and that the Church of England is in extreme danger. He looks upon Church-rates as one of the great foundations of the established religion; "pull out the stone, and the building must sooner or later fall;" and he considers that the existence of the same institution is bound up in the preservation of the very letter of the present ritual. After reviewing the debates on Church-rates in the House of Commons, Archdeacon Denison turns his attention to the recent recommendation of the committee of the House of Lords, which he attacks with as much severity as he does the Abolition Bill of Sir John Trelawny. There is no hope, he says, for the Church unless her flocks will oppose every candidate for a seat in Parliament who will not uphold Church-rates and the Church ritual in their integrity.

ST. GEORGE'S-IN-THE EAST.—The services in the parish church of St. George's-in-the-East were on Sunday conducted amid the same scene of interruption which has distinguished them for many months past. The rector is out of town, and the officiating clergy were the Revs. Messrs. Dove, Gibson, and Benson. At the close of the evening service, the Rev. Mr. Dove, first kneeling before the altar, ascended the steps of it for the purpose of pronouncing the benediction, when he was met with a storm of hisses which drowned his voice. On his leaving the chancel the people crowded around him, and he was only saved from their rough handling by the interference of some half-a-dozen of policemen.

THE STATE AID QUESTION IN AUSTRALIA.—In the Legislative Assembly in Melbourne, the State Aid to Religion Abolition Bill, introduced by the Government, and the second reading of which was preceded by a call of the House, has been read a third time and passed, with almost perfect unanimity. Not a voice was raised against the measure, and in a House of 54 members, only five voted against the second reading. The bill provides that the grant shall exist as at present till the close of 1861, and shall then cease. Jews are now for the first time to share in the grant while it exists. In the New South Wales Assembly, the measure providing for the abolition of State aid has been put aside in consequence of the resignation of Mr. Forster, the Premier, who introduced it. The settlement proposed was to pay a bonus down to each clergyman in proportion to the number of years he had served. To ministers in the decline of life the donation would have been handsome; to younger men it would have been comparatively trifling. Any further attempt at legislation on the question must now be deferred till next year.

Religious Intelligence.

OFFORD-ROAD CHAPEL.—TESTIMONIALS.—The friends connected with this new interest celebrated their third anniversary on Thursday, April 19. The reports of progress were in the highest degree encouraging. The pastor of the church and congregation, the Rev. Paxton Hood, presided. The meeting was addressed by the Revs. J. Fleming and A. M. Henderson, and by Messrs. A. Braden, May, and Johnson. G. Cuthbertson, Esq., the treasurer of the church, presented to Mr. Wilkins a beautiful purse, containing twenty-five sovereigns, as a mark of the esteem in which he was held, and as an offering of thanks from the friends for his efficiency and service in the gratuitous conduct of the psalmody of the congregation. The chairman also acknowledged with a great deal of humour and feeling the kind and affectionate testimonial of a handsome gold watch he found on his table some time before, bearing the following inscription:—"Presented to the Rev. Paxton Hood, the beloved and honoured minister of Offord-road Chapel, as a memento of grateful love by the young ladies of his congregation."

MIDNIGHT MEETING OF FRENCH WOMEN.—On Friday morning the first meeting for the benefit of this unhappy class of unfortunate women was held in the Restaurant, St. James's Hall. It was only attended by seventeen women, of whom about ten

were French. The Rev. Mr. Monod, from Paris, was present. Although the attendance was small, the result was to a certain extent encouraging, for several gave their addresses to be visited.

COWBRIDGE CHAPEL, HERTFORD.—The Rev. Wm. Spencer has accepted an agency in connexion with the British and Foreign Bible Society. He has, therefore, resigned his pastorate at the above place.

RESIGNATION OF THE REV. A. BOURNE, B.A.—We doubt not but that many of our readers will regret to hear that the above-named highly-esteemed pastor of the Congregational church in this town has sent in his resignation, and will shortly bring his labours in Lowestoft to a close. Amongst all denominations of Christians—Church and Dissent—we believe Mr. Bourne is very highly esteemed, and from him many will part with regret, but all will join in wishing both him and his family length of days, true happiness, and great prosperity. —*West Suffolk Gazette*.

DESTRUCTION OF A BAPTIST CHAPEL BY FIRE IN JAMAICA.—It will be seen from an advertisement elsewhere, that the large chapel and school-room at Annotto Bay, Jamaica, which cost more than 3,000*l.*, was recently destroyed by fire. The Rev. J. Jones, the pastor, is now in this country with a view to obtain pecuniary assistance in rebuilding the same. The case is strongly recommended by the Baptist Missionary Society, and will, we trust, excite that share of liberal sympathy from Christian friends in this country which it deserves.

DUBLIN.—ZION CHAPEL, KING'S INN-STREET.—The Rev. David Harding, of Cheshunt College, has received and accepted the cordial and unanimous invitation of the church assembling in the above place of worship, and intends to commence his ministerial labours on the first Sabbath in June. During the interim the chapel is to be repaired, improved and painted, and an effort made to liquidate a small debt connected with the place for ground-rent, &c.

THE MORALITY OF THE REVIVAL IN BELFAST.—The following extract from a speech made by the Rev. Theophilus Campbell at Belfast to a Dublin audience refers to some statistics given by the *Northern Whig*, and copied into the *Times*, with the view of showing that drunkenness had increased during the revival of last year. Mr. Campbell said:—

Representations had been made to the effect that drunkenness had increased in consequence of the revival. That was a gross misrepresentation. The fact was that drunkenness had increased, and that the figures stated were perfectly correct; but this fact and the fact of the revival, though they had occurred simultaneously, and though the one had been so cunningly stated as to lead people to suppose that it was the result of the other, had no connexion with the other. It might as well be said that drunkenness was the cause of the revival. No revived person had been found among the drunkards. Though he disagreed with much that had been done, still, he could bear testimony to the fact that, even among the 30,000 who had met in the Botanic Gardens, not one drunken man could be pointed out. He had examined, however, the printed accounts of crime during the last two years for the county of Antrim, and had found that the number of committals had decreased from 3,281 in 1858, to 2,784 in 1859. The number of committals in a county in which Protestants formed a vast majority had been 1,002 Protestants, and 1,069 Roman Catholics, exhibiting a decrease of ninety-nine Protestants as compared with the previous year, and an increase of fifty-three in Roman Catholics.

It has never yet been shown, even as to the alleged increase of drunkenness in Belfast, (adds the *Banner of Ulster*) whether it arises from new and additional cases, or from a repetition of the old ones—from, in fact, the Owen Christys and Jane Feenys, who are almost half-time in prison. But the statistics of the committals to our County Jail, representing—not a large community of 120,000, with its hardly reformable stratum of dissipation and crime—but the population of a wide district of country—the scene of the revival—prove to a demonstration that, so far from fostering crime, that religious movement has had a most powerful effect in diminishing it.

Correspondence.

THE RECENT CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS ON THE BALLOT.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

SIR,—“A conference of ministers of religion of all denominations with the council of the Ballot Society, held on the 23rd April, having unanimously resolved, that it is the duty of ministers of religion to use all the influence in their power amongst the members of their churches and congregations, and in their respective neighbourhoods, to promote the adoption of that protection to the suffrage by means of the Ballot, which is found by our fellow-subjects in Australia to secure so completely the peaceful and moral conduct of elections.” I beg leave to ask for space in your columns to bring the proceedings of the conference before the attention of those ministers who, although absent from our deliberations, may be willing to co-operate in carrying out the resolution.

It is obvious that ministers can render effectual aid in many ways. In Parliamentary boroughs and in counties, they can discourage the candidature of professed Liberals who may be unfriendly to the Ballot. They can assist the society by taking part in the meetings which may be held in their several localities by promoting the signature of petitions to both Houses of Parliament in favour of secret voting, and by encouraging their more wealthy friends to send up contributions towards the increasing expenses of the agitation.

To facilitate the labours of any ministerial friends who may be willing thus to help us, forms of petitions and other information and advice will be supplied on application, and the committee will gladly receive from

ministers any suggestions how they can best carry out the resolution of the conference.

Dear Sir, yours faithfully,

J. F. BONTEMS, Hon. Sec.

The Ballot Society's Office, 5, Guildhall
Chambers, London, E.C.
May 2, 1860.

Anniversary Meetings.

WESLEYAN MISSIONARY SOCIETY.

The annual meeting of this society was held on Monday, April 30, in Exeter Hall, and was presided over by Sir Andrew Agnew, Bart., M.P. Among those on the platform were the Rev. J. Scott, the Rev. Dr. Hannah, the Rev. W. M. Punshon, the Rev. R. Roberts, Dr. Hoole, the Rev. G. Osborn, the Rev. Newman Hall, the Rev. S. Waddy (the President of the Wesleyan Conference), Thomas Farmer, Esq., &c.

The SECRETARY read a long and interesting report of the operations of the society's missions in all parts of the world for the past year.

It gave most satisfactory and encouraging accounts of the missions in Germany, at Gibraltar, in India, China, South Africa, the Indies, the Cape of Good Hope, and Australia. The missions of the Canadian Conference, exclusive of the missions to the new and partially settled districts, were thus classified:—Among the Indians there were seventeen stations and sixteen missionaries. In the territory of the Hudson Bay Company and on Lake Superior seven stations and seven missionaries. Among the French Canadians, five stations and four missionaries, and in the newly-commenced mission to British Columbia and Vancouver's Island, seven stations and four missionaries. In many parts of the connexion, both in the colonies and the foreign field, the work had been revived and the church edified and enlarged. The number of members returned this year was 32,180, which was an increase in the colonies of 1,335, and in the mission stations of 2,687; being a total increase of 4,022. Besides this there were 6,897 persons on trial for membership, leaving in the colonies 1,758, and in the missions 5,139. In Fejee the total number of those who had renounced heathenism, and wished for Christian instruction, was not less than 60,000, and probably more. But it was just because the advantage resulting from missionary labour was so manifest that the demand for it was heard in almost all directions. There was scarcely a mission carried on by the society which did not seek and require to be reinforced and extended. It was therefore hoped that the Committee would be, by the liberality of the people, enabled to meet their large demands by a large supply. The balance-sheet showed an income for the year of 140,005*l.* 5*s.* 11*d.*, and a general expenditure of 126,504*l.* 7*s.* 5*d.*, the expenditure being an increase of 9,146*l.* 13*s.* 7*d.* over last year, but which was more than met by an increase in the receipts.

The Rev. S. WADDY, the President of the Wesleyan Conference, moved the adoption of the report, and, in doing so, sketched the operations of these missions from the commencement.

The Rev. NEWMAN HALL seconded the resolution.

The Rev. Mr. WALTON, from Ceylon, supported the motion, who, in reference to the late rebellion in India, stated that at the principal seat of that rebellion the missionaries had been always few and feeble, while in Southern India and Ceylon, where the missionary efforts had always been strong and vigorous, even the distant thunder of that terrible outbreak was scarcely heard or felt. In Ceylon there were missionaries representing five Protestant missionary societies, in connexion with which there were 3,000 church members—more than one-half of which belonged to the Wesleyan Missionary Society. There were 4,000 children in the schools, 1,000 of whom were girls.

The Rev. Mr. WILSON, a missionary just returned from Fejee, next addressed the meeting, and gave some interesting information respecting the state of the missions in those islands.

Other addresses were delivered by the Rev. W. M. Punshon, Rev. Mr. Greer, J. R. Ray, Esq.; and the proceedings, which were of a prolonged character, closed with a vote of thanks to the Chairman.

CHURCH MISSIONARY SOCIETY.

The annual meeting of the members and friends of the society was held at Exeter Hall, which was densely crowded. The Earl of Chichester presided, and was supported by the Bishops of Winchester, Carlisle, Ripon, Sierra Leone, and Llandaff, the Dean of Carlisle, Mr. Abel Smith, M.P., Sir John Lawrence, Mr. Moody, M.P., Lieut.-Col. Herbert Edwardes, the Rev. Dr. Miller, rector of Birmingham, Lord Henry Cholmondeley, and an immense body of clergymen.

The CHAIRMAN, in commencing the proceedings, said:—

Strictures had recently emanated from the press, charging this and similar societies with carrying on a very pertinacious and objectionable system of begging. Such statements were made by men who were almost wholly unacquainted with the internal history of the Society, but those who understood its operations would give a very different account. There might, indeed, be beggars and rogues among the camp followers of the Society's army, but they held no commission to serve in its ranks. (Hear.) The great and brilliant results achieved by the Society were not due to begging and extortion, but were attributable to the fervent prayers and spontaneous efforts of grateful hearts in the work of Christ. (Cheers.) A general answer had been given to all the allegations which had been brought against the Society, and those objections would be dealt with in detail.

The Rev. JOHN VENN, the secretary, read the report, which gave a detailed account of the operations in India, China, Africa, and other parts of the

world. The following is the financial statement of the society for the year appended to the report:—

Income: Total received at home, 145,629*l.* 1*s.* 4*d.*, including 13,576*l.* 16*s.* 4*d.* as a special fund for India. Total expenditure, 137,582*l.* 5*s.* 3*d.*, including 9,448*l.* 1*s.* 9*d.* on account of expenditure charged to India fund; ordinary income of the year, 132,052*l.* 5*s.*; ordinary expenditure of the year, 128,134*l.* 3*s.* 6*d.* Special India Fund.—Balance from last year, 45,447*l.* 3*s.* 6*d.*; receipts of the year, 13,576*l.* 16*s.* 4*d.*; total, 59,023*l.* 19*s.* 10*d.*; expenditure, 12,948*l.* 1*s.* 9*d.*, leaving a balance of 46,075*l.* 18*s.* 1*d.* The local funds raised in the missions and expended there upon the operations of the society, but independently of the general fund, are not included in the foregoing statement. The amount exceeds 18,000*l.*, making a grand total from all sources of 163,629*l.* 1*s.* 4*d.* The society has at present 142 missionary stations, with 236 clergymen, 36 European laymen, schoolmasters, lay agents, and printers; 11 European female teachers (exclusive of missionaries' wives), 2,007 native and country-born catechists and teachers of all classes not sent from home, and 19,480 communicants.

The Bishop of WINCHESTER moved the adoption of the report, and Mr. ABEL SMITH, M.P., seconded the motion, which was adopted.

Lieut.-Col. HERBERT EDWARDES, C.B., moved the next resolution, urging the necessity of renewed exertions on behalf of India, and expressing his conviction that a most favourable opening had been made for the introduction of the Gospel. The Rev. CLEMENT COBB seconded the resolution, which was agreed to.

The meeting was successively addressed by the Dean of Carlisle, the Rev. E. Bayley, rector of Bloomsbury, the Bishop of Sierra Leone, and the Rev. Canon Miller.

THE CHRISTIAN INSTRUCTION SOCIETY.

The friends of this society assembled on Tuesday evening, May 1st, to celebrate their anniversary, under the presidency of Mr. Alderman Challis.

Mr. BARKER, one of the Secretaries, read the report, which showed that several new associations have been formed during the past year, so that now there are about 90 churches of various denominations united together for works of usefulness. The 30 churches which had furnished detailed statistics of their operations exhibited the following results:—Visitors employed in tract distribution, &c., 523; Families visited, 16,135; persons induced to attend public worship during the year, 370, an average of more than 10 persons to each church; children induced to attend the Sabbath school, 572, an average of more than 19 to each school; 223 copies of the Scriptures had been circulated by the visitors; there are also 30 preaching-stations, numerous prayer-meetings, and open-air services, conducted by these Christian labourers. The parent society had conducted open-air services in Greenwich Park, Peckham, Wandsworth, and Southwark, during the summer months. Week evening lectures had been given by the secretaries to working men, and special services on Lord's-day afternoons, had been held in the city, and in Southwark, in which valuable aid had been kindly rendered by several esteemed ministers of the Gospel, to whom the committee would thus publicly tender their warmest thanks. A gratifying report was given of the progress of the special services being held on Lord's-day evening at the large room at the Horns, Kennington, and the kindness of the proprietor of that room, in allowing the use of the place for the mere incidental charges, was suitably acknowledged. It was also reported that attempts are about to be made to reach the poor, degraded inhabitants of Old Pye-street, Westminster, by Sabbath evening services by Christian laymen. The report concluded by showing a balance to the credit of the society of 262*l.* 17*s.* 6*d.*, which the committee intend, by the blessing of God, to employ in evangelising amongst the poor and abandoned of the rapidly-increasing population of London.

The Rev. W. GRISSEY moved, and the Rev. J. H. MILLARD seconded the first resolution. The last-named speaker said:—

He lived in the borough of Southwark, which contained 400,000 people. He was grieved to say that the subscription to the Auxiliary Bible Society had so fallen off that it was only half the amount that it was ten years ago. There were in Southwark 54 Dissenting places of worship and 20 churches; and he thought he should be over-estimating the fact if he said that 50,000 people of that borough regularly attended Divine service. But, even supposing 100,000 to attend, that would leave 300,000 who never entered into the house of God. There were many humanitarian influences at work, of which he considered the "cheap press" one of the most important. He recognised it on a whole as humanising, and believed that it worked for good.

The Rev. J. H. WILSON, in moving the next resolution, said that perhaps few had had more opportunities than himself of learning the moral condition of London; and, after a long experience, he was led to thank God and take courage. When he was coming to London he was told that he would find the best and worst of everything in it, and he had found the best and worst of everything. The more he came in contact with the Christianity of London the more he loved it and blessed God for it. Although the London population contained a large number who never attended a place of worship, we ought to rejoice that there were 370,000 who always frequented the house of God. Such a power as that constantly at work must be a mighty influence for the conversion of souls. And there was a time when the armies that made up the Christian Church were feeble, until a few noble hearts constituting this society scaled the fortress of iniquity, and others had followed, and that night they could apply to the

Christian Instruction Society the words, "This society laboured, and others have entered into its labours." Instead of complaining that they were lost to sight in the Christian efforts of the present hour, they ought to rejoice, and pray that God would bless every society doing the work which that society was established for. He thought they ought to take encouragement from the prayerful and earnest spirit that now characterised the whole of the Evangelical Church.

He was at Whitby a few days ago, when he was walking out, and he met with a gentleman who appeared to be a clergyman, and he held out his hand, when the gentleman took hold of it and gave it a hearty shake. After some conversation about a meeting that had been held, the stranger asked if Mr. Wilson was there, and if he could conduct him to him. Mr. Wilson replied, "He is now before you; what do you want with him?" "Oh," he said, "I am the vicar of the parish, and I want you to come and preach for me." Mr. Wilson replied, "I cannot; I am a Dissenter." He said, "I know all about it; never fear about that; you come and preach for me; there is my pulpit and my people; only stir up their hearts." He was a noble man that; but he (Mr. Wilson) could not go, for at the hour the service was to commence he was advertised to appear in another place with brethren of his own denomination, and he could not desert them. Those were the sort of men they wanted to get among the people. They did not want stiff, starch, prim ministers in the Church of England, nor among Dissenters either. If they were all ministers such as the one he had just referred to, they would not have to complain of empty pews and that people would not come to church. Great results had been accomplished of late through the means of prayer; and he hoped they would all continue to do what in them lay, and God's blessing would most assuredly rest upon them.

The meeting was subsequently addressed by the Revs. H. Bonner, W. Tyler, and other gentlemen.

BRITISH AND FOREIGN BIBLE SOCIETY.

The annual meeting of this society was held in Exeter Hall on Wednesday, the great hall being, as usual, crowded to excess. The chair was taken by the Earl of SHAFTESBURY. After the usual exercises,

The Rev. J. MEE read the report of the committee for the past year:—

It stated that the success which had attended the operations of the society was calculated to excite feelings of gratitude and joy. In France considerable difficulties had been put in the way of the society's agents by the Church of Rome; but, notwithstanding these, the issues for the year had been 85,800 copies; and although that circulation had been somewhat less than last year, yet it was something to be able to say that since the society had established agencies in France, four millions and a-half copies of the Scriptures had been circulated in France, seven-eighths of which had been placed in the hands of Roman Catholics. In Belgium, difficulties still existed from the same causes as in France, for, the circulation of the Scriptures being simply tolerated, the Church of Rome used all her influence to impede the circulation. During the year 9,200 copies had been circulated, and since the establishment of the agency a quarter of a million copies of the Scriptures had been placed in the hands of a quarter of a million out of the four millions of the population of that country. In Holland 12,000 copies had been circulated during the year, and 22,400 since the establishment of the agency in that country. The Berlin agency had circulated 156,800 copies, being an increase over last year of 28,000 volumes. At Cologne, a Roman Catholic city, 7,000 copies had been circulated, and 96,800 copies since the commencement of the agency. The Frankfurt agency had distributed 85,600 copies, being 16,000 more than last year. In London, all classes had combined in the good work of circulating the Scriptures, and during the year 89,000 copies had been circulated, being an increase over last year of 17,000 copies, and of 1,000,000 copies since the establishment of the agency. In Norway 16,000 copies had been circulated; and, while no edition had yet been published in Russia, the agency at St. Petersburg had, during the year, circulated 21,000 copies, while the circulation at Odessa had been 10,000 copies. Spain and Portugal were still as much sealed against the circulation of the Bible as was the kingdom of Madagascar; but in Switzerland and Northern Italy 44,000 copies had been circulated, being an increase over last year of 13,000, the circulation in the newly-opened-up portions of Italy being 24,000 copies. In June last other measures were taken to circulate the Scriptures, and from June to December 2,977 copies were circulated, while in Florence 400 copies had been circulated in a few weeks. In Turkey 24,000 copies had been circulated, and in India only 92,000 copies. At Madras 30,000 volumes had been circulated, and in China 30,000. The agencies at the west-end of London had during the year circulated 1,917,877 copies, being an increase over last year of 291,917 copies; while in the Bay-water Auxiliary they had a Lawrence as president and a Havelock as vice-president. The issues of the society, therefore, for the year had been, from the depot at home, 1,241,679; from depots abroad, 676,218; making in all 1,917,897 copies, being an increase of 291,912 copies over those of any preceding year. The total issues of the society now amounted to 37,527,828 copies. From an abstract of the financial statement it appears that the receipts of the year ending March 31, 1860, have exceeded those of any preceding year (excluding the special funds). The amount applicable to the general purposes of the society is 80,526*l.* 17*s.* 6*d.*, and the amount received for Bibles and Testaments 81,493*l.* 15*s.* 11*d.*, making the total receipts from the ordinary sources of income 162,020*l.* 13*s.* 5*d.*, being 7,114*l.* 7*s.* 4*d.* more than in any former year. To the above must be added the sum of 1,278*l.* 4*s.* for the Chinese New Testament Fund, and 337*l.* 9*s.* for the special fund for India; making a grand total of 164,136*l.* 6*s.* 5*d.* The ordinary payments have amounted to 173,621*l.* 2*s.* 9*d.*, and the payments on account of the Jubilee and Chinese New Testament Funds to 5,741*l.* 12*s.* 9*d.*, making the total expenditure of the year to amount to 179,365*l.* 15*s.* 6*d.*, being 29,722*l.* 0*s.* 6*d.* more than in any former year. The society is under engagements to the extent of 77,616*l.* 9*s.* 10*d.*

The CHAIRMAN, in opening the proceedings, expressed the disappointment which he and the leading friends of the Society felt with regard to the circulation of the Scriptures in Italy. In their anticipations on that subject he said they had forgotten that bigotry and superstition still prevailed. He believed, however, that many of the ruling powers of Northern and Central Italy desired the circulation of the Scriptures, believing it to be conducive to the preservation of liberty and of good order, and he hoped that there would soon be recorded an extensive diffusion of God's word in that part of Europe. (Cheers.) It was impossible for Englishmen to be indifferent to the national dangers which beset their country. There were two countries to which they must direct their special attention—India and Turkey. Attention to India was their first duty, seeing that its interests had been entrusted to them by Providence. Now that the danger attending the mutiny had passed away, great lukewarmness prevailed among the Indian authorities with regard to the diffusion of Christianity. They said that the introduction of God's word in the schools would shake the throne of the Queen. Did they really know what were the contents of that Word? (Hear, hear.) Let them witness its influence on ragged-school children, and then say whether it could be otherwise than a source of security and blessing in India. As regarded Turkey he contended that they should prepare for the evil day which was coming upon it by flooding it with the Scriptures, as it was only in that way that they could benefit the inhabitants of the Turkish empire, and at the same time protect English interests in the East. The word of God would prove to be "the cheap defence of nations," and our great guarantee from aggression abroad. No reflecting person could doubt that there were powers which would band together if they thought they could do so safely against England, and which would gladly extinguish English liberty. Where were we to look for security? He rejoiced in the Armstrong guns, and in the 100,000 volunteer riflemen, but the real strength of the nation lay in that old, and as it was called *effete*, book the Bible. (Cheers.) That book was their safety—let it be cherished as it ought to be, and the nation would be enabled to meet the threatened conflict. (Cheers.)

The Duke of MARLBOROUGH moved, and the Bishop of CASHEL seconded the first resolution.

The second resolution was moved by the Rev. S. MARTIN, and seconded by the Rev. Canon MILLER. The latter speaker, in referring to the false doctrine preached within and without the Church, said:—

Now, my Lord, when we recollect that this is the kind of thing which is taking hold of intellectual minds—that this is the kind of thing which is within the Church of England—and I shall not offend my Dissenting brethren when I say that I think it is without the Church, and that it is without the Church, too, to a great extent, for I think there are a great many Dissenting chapels in which the sheep are sighing and longing for the good old truths of the old Puritan divines, just as they do in many of our parish churches. ("No, no.") I am quite sure it is true. ("Order.") I will refer to the authority of the Rev. John Angell James. (Loud applause.) I say it, and I say it in the presence of men who knew Mr. John Angell James. I say that Mr. John Angell James had not a greater grief or a greater anxiety upon his heart during his latter years than the Germanising, intellectual, rationalistic preaching which is current in the present day. (Loud applause.) My Lord, I speak of these things because I believe they are imminent dangers, and, though I am a clergyman of the Church of England, I thank God I can say that I know, as did one who is sitting behind me from Birmingham, the heart of Mr. John Angell James, of Birmingham, better than many who are crying "No, no" in this hall. If he was a false witness against his brethren, upon his memory be the guilt, for it was from him I mainly derived the impressions I received. (Hear, hear.)

The Rev. LAL BEHARI SINGH, of Calcutta, next addressed the meeting at great length, and with singular ability. He closed as follows:—

My father came down to Calcutta in 1830, in order to give myself and my brother the advantages of English education; for then there was no mission and no schools in the North-West Province. We entered into Dr. Duff's school, and we struggled on for some years with the elements of education; then a copy of the Bible from the British and Foreign Bible Society's Depository there was put into our hands. We read the Bible just as we read any other school-book, but it was the private ministrations of that good and great man, Dr. Duff, that made us "almost persuaded to be Christians." After completing our education we left the institution, we got employment in connexion with Government; and there I was associated with a pious officer whose example made a deep impression on my mind. (Hear, hear.) This pious officer is an eminent colleague of the pre-eminent Sir John Lawrence. (Applause.) I saw there that Christianity is not the mere knowledge of a book; it is something living, and moving, and loving. Some gentlemen go to India to make fortunes; but this gentleman sacrificed all his fortune for the good of my countrymen. He got two or three thousand rupees a month, and he gave them all away for the support of missions. Here I saw a living practical embodiment of Christian truth. (Applause.) That made a great impression upon my mind. My elder brother was at the same time impressed with the truth. He resigned his appointment; he came to me and said, "You support me; I want to become a teacher of the Gospel." He came in the company of a pious missionary of the Church Missionary Society, was baptized by him, and is now labouring in connexion with that society. My father got a copy of the Persian New Testament from the British and Foreign Society. He read it and pondered over it. The only thing that surprised him was that the Bible contained too sublime a morality for man. This was the only difficulty he met with. He fell into the company of another pious missionary of the Church Missionary Society, and he was baptized, and is a member of the Church. Both of them during the mutiny barely escaped with their lives; they were

strong, athletic men—for we all come from the North-West; we are a race of soldiers there—and, by dint of their courage and strength, they got away from the mutineers. As I got my impressions of Divine truth from Dr. Duff, I felt it my duty to join him, and I have laboured in connexion with his mission for the last seventeen years. (Applause.) These instances of Bible conversions show how diversified are the agencies which the God of grace employs in disseminating the seeds of spiritual truth.

Amongst the subsequent speakers were the Rev. Dr. Murray, delegate from the American Bible Society, and the Dean of Carlisle.

LONDON CITY MISSION.

The annual meeting of the members and friends of this society was held on Thursday at Exeter Hall, Mr. J. P. Plumptre in the chair.

The report which was read consisted chiefly of extracts from the reports and letters of missionaries who are engaged under the auspices of the society, their successes being of a varied character. They have to contend against intemperance and infidelity in every form, but they are unanimous in declaring drunkenness to be the principal hindrance to their work. During the past year the missionaries had had great success in their efforts to improve the character of soldiers and cabmen. The number of six-day cabs had been greatly augmented, and that of the seven days had decreased; nearly 1,000 cabmen had enrolled themselves as members of the new clubs. 1,200,000 persons had been added to the population of London since it was estimated that 400 missionaries would suffice for its wants, and it now required a second 400. The general testimony of the missionaries was, that there had been an improved state of feeling on the part of those they had visited, more marked than they had ever yet witnessed. An important movement had been the opening of theatres for divine worship, and the extent to which these services had told on the class before unreachd was shown in the effect which the services had had in thinning the public-houses, and there was no doubt that the theatres would thus be made stepping-stones to places of worship. Another important indication of the present state of the minds of the people in London towards religious exercises had occurred during the past year. The religious revival which had taken in Ireland had had the effect of inducing similar gatherings, and one missionary reported that the numbers who attended the meetings were gradually increasing. Another remarkable movement had been the midnight meetings. Upwards of 100 women had been rescued from a life of sin, and had entered asylums, while a much larger number had consented to be visited, with some hope held out on their part of a willingness to forsake their vicious course on further consideration of the matter. This had also been an encouraging movement, for the London City Mission was enabled to report 524 young women rescued from temporal and eternal ruin by the direct agencies of its own missionaries. Another very interesting movement that had attained much extent during the past year was the distribution of Bibles among the poor. The number of destitute families had been reduced from 20,705 to 9,904, and of this number only 5,937 were Protestants. This success had been attributed entirely to the efforts of the Bible-women. The distribution of religious tracts last year exceeded two millions and a-half. There had been 1,102 drunkards reclaimed this year, being 306 above those saved last year. The number of shops closed on the Lord's-day had increased from 169 to 293, but there were still 13,595 shops in the districts visited open on the Sabbath. The number of communicants was 1,236, which was an increase of 217 on last year's return. The receipts of the Disabled Missionaries' Fund had been 300*l.* 13*s.* 6*d.*, and the receipts for general purposes of the society 35,473*l.* 18*s.* 9*d.*, the latter being a decrease of 324*l.* 3*s.* 6*d.* on the previous year.

The Bishop of Ripon, the Rev. Canon Miller, the Rev. Dr. Cumming, and other gentlemen, supported a resolution affirming the great usefulness of the society, and recommended it to more extended support.

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL UNION.

The fifty-seventh anniversary meeting of the Sunday School Union was held on Thursday evening, in Exeter Hall, which was crowded. In the unavoidable absence of the Hon. Arthur Kinnaird, the chair was occupied by Mr. Alderman Abbas. There was a large muster of the lay and clerical supporters of the Union on the platform, and among them were Drs. Campbell, Archer, Hewlett, and Boaz; Revs. W. Grigsby, K. Maguire, R. Ashton, G. Wilkins, R. Robinson, T. Thomas, J. Keed, E. T. Prust, G. Rose, H. Madgin, N. Hall, T. Alexander, &c., &c.

Mr. WATSON read the report, from which it appeared that the Union was issuing eight periodicals, the yearly circulation of which was 1,340,352 copies. The trade operations of the Union had increased, the sales at the depository having amounted to 17,041*l.* 3*s.* 6*d.*, being 2,277*l.* in advance of the previous year. The profits from these sales had been 1,092*l.* 17*s.* 7*d.* The expenditure of the benevolent fund, during the year, had been 1,185*l.* 17*s.* 4*d.* The income had been 1,116*l.* 7*s.* 3*d.*, leaving a balance of 69*l.* 10*s.* to be carried to the account in the ensuing year.

The Rev. THOMAS THOMAS, of Bethnal Green, moved a resolution recognising the blessings with which Almighty God had visited the Union, and affirming the great usefulness of Sunday schools. He said the report was so excellent that even

"S. G. O." himself might have moved its adoption. In the course of a long speech Mr. Thomas said that he did not desire to depreciate secular knowledge, but he would maintain that art, literature, and science had been very greatly advanced by Sunday schools, and he warned the writers who were so ready in saying that these schools had a tendency to make the scholars narrow-minded, to be very cautious in their assertions.

The Rev. ROBERT MAGUIRE seconded the motion.

The Rev. ROBERT ROBINSON moved the next resolution, which was seconded by the Rev. J. KEED.

On the motion of Dr. Boaz, seconded by Mr. GROSER, a vote of thanks to the chairman was unanimously agreed to; and, after singing and prayer, the Rev. NEWMAN HALL pronounced the benediction, and the meeting separated.

THE RELIGIOUS TRACT SOCIETY.

The 61st anniversary meeting of this society was held on Friday evening in Exeter Hall, Colonel Ed-wardes in the chair. The attendance was very numerous.

The report stated that 253 new publications had been issued by the society during the past year, comprising the periodical issue of two weekly and two monthly magazines. The total issue had amounted to 41,710,203 publications, being an increase of 4,537,360 over last year. Of these, 14,641,530 were English tracts; 6,606,500 were in the form of handbills, also in English; and 483,377 were foreign tracts. Of the four periodicals, the *Leisure Hour*, the *Sunday at Home*, the *Child's Companion*, and the *Tract Magazine*, 12,827,460 numbers had been sold. The total value of tracts and books distributed gratuitously throughout the United Kingdom was 6,163*l.* In the foreign operations of the society the circulation of the Paris auxiliary has reached 9,000,000, a large proportion of which has been among soldiers, both in camp and on foreign services. The Toulouse book society has issued 275,100 copies of different religious works, and established 81 libraries among the Protestant congregations of France. The Evangelical Society of Strasburg has also been actively engaged. The grants made by the committee to sustain these several operations in France have amounted to 1,364*l.* The Belgian Evangelical Society has distributed 139,110 publications, and has received 153*l.* from the committee. In Holland and Sweden the distribution has also been extended. In Russia 15 tracts have been published, and 104,419 have been distributed. The grants made to the Society of St. Petersburg and to Pastor Gosewitz have been 260*l.* The circulation from the depot at Basle has exceeded that of any previous year, having amounted to 252,099 tracts, and the total grants made to Switzerland have reached 424*l.* The Wupperthal, the Bremen, Lower Saxony, and Hamburg societies have also considerably increased both in production and circulation. They have received from the committees, together with some minor German societies, 603*l.* In Spain and Portugal, and in Italy, the activity of the distributors has been increased by the exciting events which have taken place in the South of Europe, to which part of the field the committee have contributed 747*l.*, making a total of 9,730*l.* as grants throughout Europe. In India the Calcutta Tract and Book Society have published a large variety of works in the Bengalee and other native languages, of which, together with English publications, they have circulated during the year 891,211. At Mirzapore 28 publications have issued from the press in the vernacular languages of Northern India, for the use of the Allahabad and other societies. The German missionaries at Tirhoot have also published 23,460 vernacular works. The issues of the Madras Tract and Book Society have amounted to 88,285 vernacular tracts and book. At the Orissa mission press 53,035 publications, including the Scriptures and elementary school-books, have been printed. The Bombay Tract and Book Society has printed during the year 47,895 tracts and books, and distributed 35,354. The Singalese Society has printed 51,040 books, and circulated 88,199. The grants made by the committees to India and Burmah have reached 1,166*l.* The grants made to China have amounted to 426*l.*, and of tracts 28,000 have been published at Canton, 49,000 at Hong Kong, 8,000 at Shanghai, and about 50,000 at Amoy. Further grants have been made of 761*l.* to British North America, 225*l.* to Australia, 106*l.* to the West Indies, and 128*l.* to Africa. The total amount received for sales has been 86,732*l.*, being an increase of 10,000*l.* over last year. There has also been an increase in the general benevolent receipts of 965*l.*, while there has been a decrease in the special fund for India and China of 890*l.*, and of 1,049*l.* in the legacies. The total amount of grants has been 12,568*l.*, which exceeds the total benevolent receipts by upwards of 2,000*l.*

The Rev. Hugh Allen, Dr. Boaz, and Dr. Murray, in severally supporting the adoption of the report, adverted at considerable length to the peculiar features of the society's usefulness.

Other clergymen followed in addressing the meeting, and the proceedings terminated by a vote of thanks to the chairman, proposed by Mr. Gurney Hoare, and carried unanimously.

MISCELLANEOUS.

ORPHAN WORKING SCHOOL, HAVERSTOCK-HILL.—The annual general court of governors of this charity was held on Friday week at the London Tavern, Bishopsgate-street. Mr. John Remington Mills in the chair. The number of children in the school,

as reported last April, was 263. Left during the year, 48. Elected in November last, 25. To be elected, 25. Admitted by presentation, 2. By purchase, 7. The number on the list after the present election would be 188 boys and 86 girls; total, 274. There had been 1,943 children received since the commencement of the charity. In respect to funds, the committee reported that the special contributions to the Centenary Fund for the past year amounted to 2,211*l.* 0*s.* 11*d.*, which made the total receipts, to December 31, amount to 8,678*l.* 7*s.* 1*d.* Deducting the disbursements of three years, there remained an available balance, at the above date, of 7,245*l.* 8*s.* 8*d.*, as shown in the auditors' report. Above 900*l.* had been received since that period. The report was adopted. The ballot was proceeded with, and 25 children—17 boys and 8 girls—were elected to the schools. The annual dinner takes place this evening.

WESLEYAN MISSIONS TO CHINA.—On Saturday morning week a numerous and influentially attended breakfast meeting, convened by the committee of the Wesleyan Missionary Society, in furtherance of the object contemplated in their recently established mission to China, was held at the London Tavern, Bishopsgate-street. The chair was occupied by Mr. Alderman and Sheriff Gabriel. The report stated that during the year the Chinese mission had been reinforced by the appointment of one additional missionary, and there had been an increase of native converts. A revival had extended among the English soldiers at Canton. Four day-schools had been opened, attended by 138 children, of whom only nine were from Christian families. Native pupil teachers were being trained for the educational work. A tract distributor was hard at work at Fatham, among 400,000 people, and there was a great demand for better chapels. The secretary announced the expenditure of the China mission to have been 2,281*l.* 6*s.*, less by a balance of 167*l.* 2*s.* 5*d.*; the net total being 2,114*l.* 3*s.* 7*d.*; contributions towards 1859, 438*l.*, leaving a balance of 1,700*l.* to be defrayed from the general fund.

UNITED METHODIST FREE CHURCHES.—The annual Home and Foreign Missionary meeting of this body was held at the Freemasons' Hall on Monday, April 23; Sir S. M. Peto, M.P., in the chair. The report stated that the total number of members connected with the denomination was 59,133 (increase during the year, 7,058), and of Sunday scholars 97,961. There were five missionaries in Jamaica, one missionary and fourteen local preachers in Wisconsin, U.S., four missionaries and forty-seven local preachers in Australia, one missionary and sixty-five local preachers in West Africa. The receipts of the year had been 4,657*l.* 6*s.* 5*d.* The meeting was addressed by the Rev. R. Eckett, Rev. Dr. Burns, and other ministers and gentlemen.

SOCIETY FOR THE PROPAGATION OF THE GOSPEL IN FOREIGN PARTS.—The annual general meeting of the members and friends of this society was held on Monday, April 29, in St. James's Hall, which was well filled. The Archbishop of Canterbury, who presided, spoke briefly of the work which the society had accomplished during the last 150 years, and of the great success which had attended the exertions of the missionaries wherever they had been enabled to proclaim the Gospel. The Rev. Ernest Hawkins, B.D., read a report of the society's operations. It referred to India, British North America, China, and the other colonies and dependencies, where its missionaries were engaged. These missionaries were upwards of 300 in number, and in all cases they were assisted in their labours by schoolmasters, catechists, and approved Scripture-readers. The total income of the society for 1859 was 115,430*l.* The Bishop of London, the Bishop of Oxford, the Bishop of Labuan, Lord Robert Montagu, M.P., Lord Robert Cecil, M.P., and Dr. Phillimore, Q.C., addressed the meeting in support of the resolutions.

Postscript.

Wednesday, May 9, 1860.
LATEST FOREIGN NEWS.
THE RISING IN SICILY.

PARIS, May 8.

The *Patrie* of this evening says:—

"General Garibaldi's departure for Sicily has been fully confirmed. He left during the night from the 5th to the 6th inst. The Piedmontese Government had ordered all arms and ammunition which had been deposited at Quarto, near Genoa, to be seized, and had also given orders for the port of Genoa to be watched. The expeditionary vessel, which had taken her papers for Malta, had put out to sea two days previously. General Garibaldi joined the vessel immediately afterwards, which instead of proceeding to Malta went to Sicily. The Piedmontese Government made every possible protest against this act of General Garibaldi, which may involve the new Italian State in grave difficulties. General Garibaldi, in connexion with the committee in London undertaking the collection of English subscriptions for Sicily, had, in order to replace the arms which he feared would be seized by the Sardinian Government, received other arms, which had not passed through Piedmont."

The *Pays* contains intelligence identical with that given by the *Patrie*.

The *Opinion Nationale* says:—"The different vessels belonging to General Garibaldi's expedition will unite off the Island of Capraja; they will then direct their course towards Sicily."

MARSEILLES, MAY 8.—Advices from Genoa positively deny the reported disembarkation of General Garibaldi

in Sicily. The Sardinian steam flotilla has left Leghorn for Sicily.

MARSEILLES, MAY 8 (EVENING).—No news has been received direct from Sicily, but letters from Naples to the 5th inst. state that the insurrection continued in the interior of the island. Government had raised the state of siege at Palermo, but the court-martial was to sit permanently. Business had not been resumed. General Balzano had demanded a reinforcement of 5,000 men, in consequence of Garibaldi's expedition.

The *Toulonnais* says:—"We are able to announce as certain the approaching arrival of their Majesties in this port, where they will embark for Nice."

GENEVA, May 8.

Prince Napoleon arrived here incognito on Sunday, at noon, and left at two p.m. on Monday. He was accompanied by M. E. de Girardin. The excursion of his highness had no political object.

MADRID, May 7.

Count Montemolin and his brother left Tortosa to day. They will embark on board the steamer Colon, the destination of which is unknown.

YESTERDAY'S PARLIAMENT.

REVISION OF THE LITURGY.

In the House of Lords last night,

Lord EBURY moved, that it is the opinion of the House that whereas the particular forms of divine worship, and the rites and ceremonies appointed to be used therein, being things in their own nature indifferent and alterable, and so acknowledged, it is but reasonable that, upon weighty and important considerations, according to the various exigency of times and occasions, such changes and alteration should be made therein as to those that are in place of authority should, from time to time, seem either necessary or expedient. He also moved that whereas the Book of Canons is fit to be reviewed and made more suitable to the state of the Church, and whereas it is desirable, as far as may be, to remove all unnecessary barriers to a union of the people in the matter of public worship, that a humble address be presented to her Majesty, praying her Majesty to be pleased to appoint a commission to prepare such alterations and amendments in the Canons and Book of Common Prayer as to them may appear desirable, and to consider of such other matters as in their judgment may most conduce to the ends above-mentioned. In a very long speech, which was an echo of the motion, he stated the reasons why he had brought that motion forward, and the grounds upon which he considered it worthy of support.

The Archbishop of CANTERBURY was convinced that the object which Lord Ebury had in view was to benefit the Church, but he was also convinced that the mode by which he proposed to confer that benefit would only result in injury. Although he had met many who desired alterations, he had seldom found any two persons who agreed as to what alterations should be made in the Prayer-book, and he therefore could not help considering that the proposed alterations might seriously damage the peace of the Church. He therefore felt bound to oppose the motion.

Lord LYTLETON also opposed the motion.

The Bishop of LONDON complained of the misrepresentations of Lord Ebury. The question was a practical one, and he should much like to know what was the practical grievance complained of, and what was the practical good to be obtained. He examined briefly the portions of the rubric and the burial service brought forward by Lord Ebury, and plainly proved that the grievances of which he complained either did not arise from those causes or would not be remedied by the means proposed. Adverting to the Book of Canons, he showed that it was perfectly competent for Convocation, with the consent of the Crown, to alter these canons, and he therefore asked what use could there be in applying for a commission in order to do that which could be done already without it.

Lord STANHOPE said that the large majority of the bench of Bishops and of the clergy opposed to the motion of Lord Ebury was a sufficient proof of the great unpopularity and small need of the revision of the Liturgy.

Lord GRANVILLE thought it would be desirable, as the expression of opinion had been all on one side, that the motion should be withdrawn.

The Bishop of OXFORD wished to understand whether Lord Ebury intended by this motion to alter the doctrinal status of the Church of England or to abbreviate certain prayers which he deemed too long. The only means of judging of the intention of Lord Ebury was, not by his speech, which was most obscure on this point, but by the opinions of those who put him forward. It had been an argument in favour of the motion that a revision of the Liturgy would conciliate the Dissenters. Now, he did not think for a minute that the alterations in the Prayer-book would bring back Dissenters to the Church, and even if he had any reasons for thinking so he should grieve, much as he desired to bring them back, to allure them back by any such means. He protested vehemently against the alterations of "only a few words here and there," as it would, in his opinion, be striking at the belief of the great body of the English people. The man who proposed to make alterations in the Prayer-book for any but the greatest results was, in his opinion, rash and unadvised. The objection to the length of the services was a mere bugbear. In his own diocese, the services which had in some instances been shortened had been subsequently resumed at their full length at the request of those very persons who had begged they might be shortened. In conclusion, he briefly refuted the remarks of Lord Ebury concerning the burial service, and renewed his strong protest against the motion.

After some remarks from the Bishop of Cashel, Lord Lytton, and Lord Ebury, the motion was negatived without a division.

Their lordships adjourned at twenty minutes past nine o'clock.

CIVIL SERVICE EXAMINATIONS.

In the House of Commons, Mr. BENTINCK, in moving for papers in connexion with the civil service examinations, called attention to what he deemed a hardship suffered by a lad in whom he took an interest, at the hands of the Civil Service Commission.—Mr. GLADSTONE generally defended the necessity of preserving the independence of the commissioners, and urged that in such a case as this the House would do well not to

exercise its right in calling for explanations.—Mr. M. MILNES and Lord R. CECIL supported the motion.—Sir G. C. LEWIS urged that if, as he thought was admitted, the system was one which ought to be maintained, it was necessary to make the answers to the examination papers confidential.—After some observations from Mr. G. W. HOPE and Mr. LOWE, a division was taken, when the motion was negatived.

REPEAL OF THE PAPER-DUTY.

On the resumption of the adjourned debate on the third reading of the Paper-duty Repeal Bill, Sir S. NORTHGOTE contended that the present state of the finances of the country rendered it undesirable to proceed further with the repeal of the excise duty on paper.—Mr. M. GIBSON defended the bill.—The discussion was continued by Mr. E. Ball, Mr. Puller, Sir M. Farquhar, and Lord Harry Vane.

Mr. ELLICE and Mr. G. W. HOPE signified their intention of voting against the third reading.

Mr. GLADSTONE elaborately reviewed the various objections which had been advanced, and answered them with minute detail.

Mr. T. BARING protested against the parting with an amount of revenue which might be, and he believed was now, wanted for the purposes of the country.

Mr. DISRAELI pointed out that the excess in the estimates over the original calculation and the probable addition of other expenses, as for instance for fortifications, would not only absorb the surplus of revenue for which credit was taken in the Budget, but the demands would exceed the sum now given away by the remission of this tax. He thought the House had, on the subject of the paper-duty, arrived at a very imprudent, premature, and precipitate decision. (Cheers.) With respect to Mr. Gladstone's financial scheme he said:—

If any gentleman asked for those fair opportunities which the forms of the House and Parliamentary precedents secure to us, the Chancellor of the Exchequer rose like a dictator and a despot in this House—(cheers)—and under a species of terrorism the House arrived at a premature and precipitate decision, which has been ruinous to our trade and has made us ridiculous in the eyes of Europe. (Cheers.)

The right hon. gentleman wound up as follows:—

What confidence can we have in following the counsels of the right hon. gentleman? (Cheers.) I showed you on a previous occasion, when you were in the delirium of the French treaty, which every man on both sides looks back to now with shame (cheers), how the right hon. gentleman had failed in every one of the great propositions of his famous budget of 1853. (Cheers.) Having traded upon that false celebrity for more than seven years, you now meet him again in 1860. Three months of the session have not yet passed, and you already deplore the course which, following his counsels, you have pursued. (Cheers.) Now, while there is still an opportunity of at least mitigating our previous folly by some prudential movement, how can you reconcile it to yourselves to sacrifice, in the present financial condition of the country, a large branch of revenue which the trade interested—and that is an important consideration—does not want you to part with, and which the evidence before you proves is not a declining but an increasing revenue? Above all, will you do this at a moment when Europe is in a condition which must make the boldest man quake and the wisest man tremble? (Great cheering.)

After a few explanatory remarks by the CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER and Mr. S. HERBERT, the House divided—

For the third reading.....	219
Against.....	209

Majority 10

The announcement of the numbers was received with loud cheers.

Mr. STEWART then stated that Mr. Ingram, the member for Boston, had gone into the lobby, and refused to vote, and as

Mr. INGRAM admitted that he had done so, having gone into the lobby by mistake,

The SPEAKER ordered his vote to be added to the number for the amendment, which then stood 210, reducing the majority to 9.

The Bill was then read a third time, and passed, and The House rose at a quarter to two.

CONGREGATIONAL UNION OF ENGLAND AND WALES.

The annual session of the Congregational Union commenced yesterday; the Rev. James Hill, of Clapham, in the chair.

The chairman having delivered an inaugural address, chiefly on the revival, the Rev. G. Smith, the secretary, read the report.

On the motion of the Rev. J. R. Campbell, seconded by the Rev. J. Alexander, the report was unanimously adopted. The meeting was then addressed by the Rev. T. Arnold, Rev. Dr. Urwick, Rev. A. Ashton, Rev. S. Frazer, Rev. Dr. Brown, &c. The Rev. H. Madgin then moved, and the Rev. Mr. Richardson seconded:—

That this assembly learns with satisfaction that a bill for taking the Census for England in 1861 has been introduced into Parliament, but this satisfaction is greatly diminished by the fact that the bill requires that every individual shall return his "religious profession," and that under the penalty of the law. This assembly, feeling their objection on many grounds to be reasonable and just, resolves to petition Parliament that the requirement be withdrawn, and that, instead thereof, the number of attendants at public worship on a given Sabbath be ascertained, and that without compulsion or fine.

The resolution was carried unanimously, and a vote of thanks to the chairman then terminated the proceedings.

THE ARCHBISHOPRIC OF YORK.—Yesterday morning there was a rumour in clerical circles that the Archbishopric of York would be conferred upon Dr. John Graham, Bishop of Chester, who holds the office of Clerk to the Crown, and in whose favour the Prince Consort has used all his influence.

MARK LANE.—THIS DAY.

The show of English wheat in our market, to-day, was again limited; nevertheless, the demand for both red and white qualities ruled very inactive, at fully 1*s.* 6*d.* per quarter beneath last week's currency. The general condition of the samples was good. Good and useful foreign wheats was held at extreme rates; but the business done in them was very moderate. Floating cargoes supported previous rates; but the inquiry for them was somewhat heavy. The inquiry for malting barley was somewhat restricted; but grinding and distilling sorts were firm in price. Most kinds of malt changed hands slowly, at late quotations. We have to report a slow inquiry for oats, on former terms. Both beans and peas ruled steady in price; but flour commanded very little attention.

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TO CORRESPONDENTS.

By mistake, a recent Church-rate case was put under the head "Wallingford" instead of "Bridgnorth."

The Nonconformist.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 9, 1860.

SUMMARY.

THE House of Lords was last night engaged in a very grave discussion on Lord Ebury's motion for a Royal Commission to revise the Liturgy and Canons of the Church. The noble lord said that he spoke in the name of "hundreds of thousands" out of doors in raising this question, though he confessed that no less than 10,000 clergymen had issued a manifesto deprecating any change. But he drew a vivid picture of the dissensions in the bosom of the Church, and expressed his belief that in all probability there was not a single member of their lordships' House who had not been a witness of disturbances in his own neighbourhood, which had arisen in consequence of new forms of service having been introduced. The alterations suggested, he proposed not only in the interest of the Church but in the hope that they would favour the return of Dissenters to the bosom of the Establishment. The noble lord was candid enough to say he did not believe that any great influx of Dissenters would immediately follow these alterations; but, "unless the attempt was made, it was impossible that the desired result of reconciliation could ever follow, and it was against all historical experience to suppose that if advances were made on one side they would not be responded to." Our readers will probably not regard Lord Ebury's reasoning on this point as very conclusive. His motion, however, was met by the united opposition of the Episcopal Bench. The Archbishop of Canterbury spoke on the subject with force and good sense. "After all," he said, "those questions of theology of which the noble lord has spoken, and which he wishes to see more closely defined, are not questions which can be settled by a Liturgy. A Liturgy did not originate them, and a Liturgy cannot extinguish them. Our Liturgy, as it exists, stands on this vantage ground,—all who administer it have solemnly declared assent to it. Could we expect the same assent to any change? We are not actuated by a bigoted attachment to things as they are, or by a pusillanimous apprehension of innovation, but we think that whatever objections may be advanced against our Liturgy as it is, there are greater objections to attempting its revision. We think that a verbal revision would not be worth its cost; we think that a doctrinal revision would throw the Church into confusion." These remarks speak for themselves. They are confessions that show the entire hopelessness of the movement which Lord Ebury represents. The motion was negatived without a division, and it is probable that, after this signal defeat, his lordship will take the advice of the Bishop of Oxford, who said the noble lord "would best consult the peace of that Church which he loved by abstaining from renewing this motion in any future year." How far this result will satisfy the hundreds of thousands of supporters of Lord Ebury, time will show.

During the past week Exeter Hall and St. James's Hall have been the scenes of some of the more important annual gatherings that mark the month as a season of stock-taking and rejoicing

for the great religious societies. Most of these organisations are able to congratulate their friends on an increase in their funds, and on the satisfactory progress of the missionary work both at home and abroad. The position of the great Church Societies is an illustration of Mr. Bright's remark in the late Church-rate debate, as to the resources that the Church of England can draw by the agency of the voluntary principle from its own members. While we find the friends of the Church in both Houses of Parliament, and dignitaries out of it, declaring a compulsory rate, which yields something over 200,000*l.* a year, as to quote the exact words of Archdeacon Denison, "one of the great foundations of the established religion," every fresh appeal to the Christian willingness of its members is liberally responded to. The two principal foreign missionary agencies—the Church and Propagation Societies—in carrying the Gospel to the ends of the earth alone disburse a sum of 300,000*l.* a year. If to these we add the incomes of the other Societies, whose sphere of labour is mainly found beyond the United Kingdom, they give an aggregate sum of more than 700,000*l.* that British Christians are able to spare for carrying on the evangelisation of the world, independently of what is being done at home.

In point of income as well as the extent of its operations, the Bible Society still takes the first place amongst the religious organisations of the age. The Bible is introduced where the missionary cannot follow. In Northern and Central Europe, and even in Russia, the Word of God finds its way through the agency of this Society into thousands of homes. In France the ruling power interposes no absolute veto on the sale of the Scriptures by colporteurs. Spain, Portugal, and Naples, are the only countries of Europe that are hermetically sealed against the Bible. The operations of the Bible Society are now conducted on a gigantic scale, and the distribution of the Scriptures last year was not less than twenty-three times that of the first four years of the society's existence. We are glad to find that this catholic organisation has increased its funds during the past year to the extent of 7,000*l.*

The insurrectionary movement in Sicily is far from being repressed, and there appears now no doubt that General Garibaldi has succeeded in eluding the vigilance of his own Government, and in embarking for that island with a chosen band of his followers. We have yet to learn whether the guerilla chief will succeed in effecting a landing; and, if so, whether he will be able to revive an insurrection almost extinguished. But the very name of Garibaldi is a tower of strength, and we can hardly bring ourselves to believe that his uniform success will now desert him. The event places Count Cavour in a position of great embarrassment, and, whatever course he may choose, serious difficulties beset his path.

THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THE Reform Bill has been read a second time—that is the most important item of the Parliamentary news of the week. On Tuesday se'nnight, Lord Palmerston gave notice that, on the following night, he should, if necessary, take the sense of the House on the inconvenience of further prosecuting the debate, and it was accordingly closed without the smallest show of resistance. One is tempted to ask why this legitimate exercise of authority had not been previously resorted to. Six nights wasted in desultory criticisms on a measure the principle of which all parties had agreed to affirm, constitute an unprecedented license of debate which ought not to have received the tacit sanction of the leader of the House. Had there been a definite issue before the House, the case would have been otherwise. But on the very first night of the discussion, it was announced by Mr. Disraeli that on the part of the Conservatives no division would be taken—and it soon became apparent that the sole object aimed at by protracting the debate, was to defeat the Bill by delay. This disingenuous attempt might just as well have been frustrated a fortnight ago. It wanted but a show of determination in the Premier, who is not usually lacking in this respect. This, however, for some reason or other not apparent on the surface of things, Lord Palmerston withheld. The public begun to suspect him of a desire to see Lord John's measure miscarry. His connivance might have rendered this result feasible. However, he has at length seen fit to interpose, but not a moment too soon for his own reputation. But "better late than never."

The debate was resumed on Thursday by Mr. Macaulay, who was followed by Mr. Gregory, and he again by Mr. Longfield—all three determined opponents of the Bill. They were certainly able speeches—that of Mr. Gregory the most so. Their several lines of argument, how-

ever, were very nearly identical—so nearly so, as to be as disagreeably monotonous as examination papers on the same topic. How hon. and learned gentlemen can successively and contentedly travel over the same beaten ground in the face of the same weary audience we must leave them to explain. Our readers will hardly quarrel with us for declining to follow their example. Nor do we deem it necessary to summarise the speeches of Mr. W. D. Seymour and Mr. Kendal in support of the measure. It is no disparagement of these gentlemen to remark that at so advanced a stage of the debate they threw no new light upon the question. Sir John Ramsden confessed his disappointment at the reception which the Bill had met with on both sides of the House—and well he might, considering the gist of what had been uttered on the subject by pretty nearly every representative man in the House no longer ago than last session; but his counsel that the settlement of the question should be postponed in order to the framing of a future measure likely to be more permanent and satisfactory in its character, was tinged with a juvenile hopefulness which we should have thought his brief experience might have sufficed to correct. Mr. Walpole, although intending to vote, if necessary, for the second reading of the Bill, regarded it as based on principles at variance with those embodied in the Act of 1831, and argued strongly against establishing homogeneous franchises. If not very conclusive in his reasoning, he was, as always, candid in his temper.

And now Mr. Gladstone rose to conclude the debate. It had been quietly assumed by many in as well as out of Parliament that the Chancellor of the Exchequer looked with small favour on the Bill. His speech on Thursday night did not justify the surmise. It was the best defence of the measure yet offered from the Treasury bench. It was hearty, too, and trusting. Mr. Gladstone vindicated the operative class from the aspersions of former speakers—asserted the justice of their claim to a fuller share in the representation than they have yet enjoyed—proved to demonstration how small a proportion of them the Bill of the Government will admit to the political privileges of the Constitution—ridiculed the allegation that the present measure would confer on them "the lion's share"—examined and refuted the plea of the Opposition that we were about to Americanise our political system—pointed out the difference between the social condition of the Americans and our countrymen at home—and challenged those who maintained the views which he had attempted to answer to show their sincerity by voting against the Bill. It was not one of Mr. Gladstone's greatest oratorical efforts—but it was exhaustive within the limits which bounded it—and showed the speaker to be painstaking and in earnest. It sufficed, at any rate, to quench further discussion. Like a blaze of sunlight, it extinguished artificial fire. The Bill was read a second time without a division, and the Committee was fixed for an early day in June. The interval is a long one—but arrears of financial and other business have been accumulating since Easter—trade is paralysed by uncertainty—the Estimates are all behindhand—and it will take a full month to clear the way for a continuous consideration of the details of the Reform Bill. Further obstruction is threatened notwithstanding.

Proceedings on Friday night were as miscellaneous as can well be imagined. The steps taken to protect our commerce in Japan, the policy of the British Government in relation to Papal affairs, the late agrarian disturbances in Bengal, the re-organisation of the Indian army, the classification of inmates of union workhouses, the Brazilian claims, the final reduction of the wine duties, the ventilation of the National Gallery, and the purification of the Serpentine, came under some sort of higgledy-piggledy notice, on the motion for adjournment till Monday. Then came a motion by Mr. H. Sheridan for leave to bring in a Bill to reduce the Stamp-duty on Fire Insurances, which, coming on the heels of the Budget of 1860-61, the Chancellor of the Exchequer resisted as a matter of course, and negatived, on a division, by 108 to 84. Sir Joseph Paxton, afterwards moved for a Select Committee to consider the best means of providing for the increasing traffic of the metropolis by an embankment of the Thames. The work is much needed—but who will find the money? That is the real difficulty. The Government wisely discourage any application for State funds. Local wants are not to be met by Imperial resources. Mr. Blackburn moved by way of amendment the addition of words to this effect, "and how the funds are to be provided from the districts benefited"—but the amendment was negatived and the original motion carried.

The Refreshment Houses and Wine Licenses Bill came on for second reading on Monday—that is, more correctly speaking, the adjourned debate was resumed. Mr. Ayrton commenced

with a long speech against the Bill, which he strongly opposed both on fiscal and moral grounds. An earnest discussion followed, in which Mr. E. James, Mr. C. P. Villiers, Mr. Henley, Mr. Buxton, and the Chancellor of the Exchequer, took the most prominent part. Mr. Ayrton was chief spokesman for the Teetotallers, and Mr. E. James for the publicans. On the whole, their arguments were kept as distinct as possible; but, as Mr. Gladstone said, in allusion to the old allegory of "the Choice of Hercules," "instead of Virtue soliciting us to go one way, and Vice another, we have both Virtue and Vice leagued against us, both standing across the road and refusing to allow us to proceed." The principle of the Bill was affirmed by 267 Ayes against 193 Noes. Previously to entering upon this debate, a personal difference between Mr. Walter and Mr. Horsman touching the responsibility of the *Times* newspaper was needlessly dragged before the House. A rather lengthy correspondence was read, and somewhat superfluous speeches were spoken, in reference to which we give our opinion that, however technically wrong, Mr. Horsman was morally right in fixing upon Mr. Walter a due measure of personal responsibility for the *Times*. But the right hon. gentleman is somewhat too fond of lecturing his opponent in oracular tones. Lord Palmerston and Mr. Disraeli hushed the quarrel as speedily as possible; but, we hope, it will not be without its good fruits. The mask has been torn off from more than one visage—and, for a time, at least, it will hardly be forgotten.

THE POSITION OF THE GOVERNMENT.

In the Commons last night the third reading of the Paper-duty Repeal Bill was carried by the narrow majority of 9 in a House of 429 members. This unexpected vote throws some light upon the Church-rate division of Friday week, when, it will be recollected, Sir John Trelawny's Bill was passed by exactly the same majority. It confirms also the conclusion of Mr. Baxter—a keen observer—that the Liberation Society had nothing to do with the diminished support given to abolition. The two divisions taken together throw considerable light upon the policy of the Opposition. As the session advances, Mr. Disraeli and his followers increase in boldness. By the strictly party triumph on Church-rates they gave decided evidence of their compact organisation, and were encouraged to attempt another trial of strength with the Government. The opportunity offered last night on the third reading of the Paper-duty Repeal Bill. Sir Stafford Northcote, the Tory Chancellor of the Exchequer *in futuro*, led the way by proposing the following amendment: "That the present state of the finances of the country render it undesirable to proceed further with the repeal of the excise duty on paper." Now "the present state of the finances" can only be the result of the financial proposals of the Chancellor of the Exchequer. The issue raised was, therefore, nothing more than an *ex post facto* decision on a Budget, the leading items of which had been carried by large and repeated majorities. These tactics are no doubt very clever, very embarrassing to the Government, and very acceptable to old Whigs like Mr. Ellice, who dislike innovation, dread a Reform Bill, and would for ever keep the Church-rate question alive as a party barrier between the Liberals and Conservatives.

Last night's discussion was raised by faction, for party purposes. A recourse to such shameless tactics is almost without precedent. It was pointed out by Mr. Gladstone that, without exception, when such a remission of taxation has been proposed by the authority of the Government, and accepted by a deliberate vote of the House of Commons, it is from that time regarded by every person concerned as if it were already the law of the land. The Paper-duty was virtually repealed when the second reading of the Bill was carried by a large majority, and on the faith of that settlement new arrangements were made by the trade. If, therefore, Sir S. Northcote's amendment had been carried last night, it would have thrown an important interest into confusion, and have been virtually a breach of faith on the part of the House of Commons.

If the Opposition had last night succeeded in carrying their amendment, there is little doubt that Ministers would have considered the propriety of resigning. The main arguments of the opponents of the Bill were founded upon a condemnation of the Budget as a whole. It was asserted that there will next year be a deficiency of 12,000,000*l.* But, if the statement be true, was it not known before? The real state of the case was pointed out by Mr. Puller, who it may be remembered himself proposed at an earlier stage to retain the Paper-duty. "That was," he said, "really a question of confidence in the

Government, and whether it could be trusted to draw up the estimates."

For our part we are not at all sorry that there may be a deficit next year. Nothing but such a prospect will check the shameless waste of the public money, and help to cut down the estimates. When a nation is in debt there is some chance that the entire scale of its expenditure will be revised, and that its rulers will exercise a more conscientious supervision. To Mr. Gladstone's Budget we owe the prospect of an early termination of the Chinese war, and the postponement of the huge job for erecting extensive dockyard fortifications. Mr. Ellice may mourn over these results; the public will rejoice. We are now bound over to keep the peace for one year at least. Thanks to Mr. Gladstone, the era of retrenchment has set in; for now that the burden of costly defences falls heavily upon the represented classes, whatever Government may be in office will have to pursue a course of economy which will lighten the public burdens, and keep back the hungry class that are ever "pulling at the Exchequer."

THE WINE LICENSES BILL.

Is it wise to give to Refreshment Houses, under prudent police restrictions, liberty to sell their customers wine? The teetotallers and the publicans say "No;" the House of Commons, on Monday night, said "Yes." Which is right?

The publicans have an interest—a monopoly to defend. We can hardly regard them as impartial judges. They like a close trade better than an open one. They have it in spirits—they don't want to lose it in wine. Their arguments are just of that sort which are sure to impress their own minds more deeply than the minds of others. "There are enough of us already" is convincing enough to a man who is in—but it is wanting in force to those who stand without. We, therefore, bow and pass on.

The teetotallers, on the other hand, begin by sacrificing their own appetites with a view to benefit others—many of them, at all events. They seek to reform society by means of self-denial. They are entitled to our profound respect. They have undeniably achieved a vast amount of good by calling attention to the miseries which arise out of our drinking habits. They have helped to make inebriety disgraceful. They have a right, therefore, to speak on the question before us—and their testimony will, no doubt, be received with deference. It is an untoward feature of their present position, that they and their direct foes, the publicans, are working towards the same end. We do not think this an irrefragable argument against them—because, it will sometimes happen that the interests of a questionable calling, or a tainted reputation, lie along the line of honour and sanctity—and it would be hard, indeed, if those who habitually walk therein must give way whenever it may suit the purpose of intruders to make use of the road. Nevertheless, it is a misfortune that teetotallers should be mixed up with publicans in this discussion. It deprives them of more than half their moral power. It will not avail to gain their immediate object—and assuredly, it will prove a stumbling-block in the way of their ulterior one.

The House of Commons, as we think, came to the right decision on Monday night. Wines, especially the cheap and light wines of France, are less hurtful (to adopt the tone of the total abstinents) than spirits—wine with food is less intoxicating than wine without it. The publicans, it is clear, are afraid lest their customers should be thinned by the less injurious attractions of Refreshment Houses—and even Gin Palaces are trembling in prospect of the competition. This is a hopeful sign. These men know their business better than the teetotallers can be supposed to do. They would not be alarmed if they did not apprehend a considerable diminution of custom. Ardent spirits and drugged porter, it seems to be feared, will not keep the field in presence of cheap wines. The publicans, we believe, are right. The Refreshment Houses, when duly furnished with wine licenses, will constitute formidable rivals to the public-houses. And we are simple enough to believe that sobriety will be a gainer thereby.

For observe! Refreshment Houses make food their first care—drink only their second. The hundreds of thousands who spend the day from home, and get their meals at the nearest eating-house, desire food, primarily—and with it, but in subordination to it, palatable drink. Why should they be compelled to trade with the publicans for the latter, any more than the former? Why is the operation of eating to be legally dissociated from that of drinking? We are told that intoxication invariably increases with the means of its indulgence. Within certain limits this is no doubt true, as it is true of every other vice—but the universal application of a limited truth is a fallacy and a falsehood. Men in the

upper ranks of life are surrounded with the means of intemperance to a much greater extent than the poor, but they are not in an equal proportion given to excess. Public-houses and beer-shops have other attractions for the poor than those of mere drink; and surely it will hardly be contended that in this metropolis, or in any of our larger towns, men are kept sober by any lack of opportunity for indulgence. If all the pastry-cooks and eating-house-keepers in the kingdom were allowed to furnish their customers with wine, instead of sending to the next tavern for it, more wine would undoubtedly be drunk than now—but *non constat* that there would be more drunkenness. On the contrary, we verily believe there would be less.

The main ground, however, on which we base our approval of the Wine Licenses Bill is, that we believe its effect on intemperance, so far as it has any effect whatever upon it, will be to supplant an injurious taste by a very much milder type of it. We do not believe that it will wean existing drunkards from strong drink—but it will probably prevent many a man from hankering after drinking entertainments. It will operate to keep myriads of sober work-people of both sexes out of the vortex which so often swallows up their means, their character, and their health. It will destroy the indispensability of the public-house—and thereby cut off a crowd of urgent temptations. Persuade men to drink water only, if you can, by all means. Not a syllable have we to urge against that. But where they will not be persuaded, which, alas, is the case of nineteen out of twenty, beware of shutting them up to the alternative of ardent spirits. Give them a chance of something more palatable and less alcoholic. They may, it is true, get intoxicated with the less fiery liquid, if they take it in excess—but the temptation to take it in excess will be less potent and less easily given way to. At all events, do not restrict your trade privileges to the dealers in the more unwholesome stuff. Do not think to extirpate immoral indulgences by forbidding the moderate enjoyment of such as are comparatively harmless. It is a mistake. In the long run it will produce more evil than good. Human nature invariably rebels against legal dictation when it interferes to put down what is not in itself, and obviously, evil. And surely it is not evil to allow men to drink light wine with their lunch or dinner, instead of sending or going to the nearest public-house for it. Vexatious sumptuary and fiscal laws are worse than useless. They aggravate the very evil they were meant to cure.

THE MENDELSSOHN FESTIVAL.

This *fete*, long since promised to the public by the manager of the Crystal Palace entertainments, came off on Friday with the most triumphant effect. The day was brilliant—the company was numerous—and the three parts into which the *fete* was divided—namely, the performance of the oratorio *Elijah*, the unveiling of the statue of Mendelssohn, and the torch-light procession, were all got through without accident, and with striking effect. We shall speak only of the Oratorio, and its performance by the same choir and orchestra, and under the same conductor, as won such unbounded admiration at the Handel Commemoration last year.

Of all Mendelssohn's works, the *Elijah* is, perhaps, the best adapted for this colossal method of interpretation—but we question whether three thousand instrumentalists and singers can bring out the soul of this composer's music so distinctly and vividly as a smaller number, especially when, as on Friday, some of the most striking choruses are taken so fast, that the rich and varied orchestral colouring is altogether lost. Nevertheless, the performance, as a whole, was truly wonderful. We understand there had been no rehearsal at the Crystal Palace—yet there was no want of steadiness. Throughout the first part, although every passage was distinctly given, there was less abandon, and, perhaps, more caution and timidity than consisted with full expression. But the singing in the second part was magnificent—particularly the sublime but difficult chorus, "Behold the Lord God passed by." The solo singers were Mademoiselle Parepa, who took the leading soprano, assisted by Miss Fanny Rowland—the alto being taken by Madame Sainton-Dolby and Miss Palmer. Mr. Sims Reeves was tenor, and Signor Belletti and Mr. Thomas took the basses. The double quartet, "For he shall give his angels," although too much hurried, was delicious—the "Sanctus" still more so—but the exquisite trio "Lift thine eyes," fell lifeless upon the ear. Signor Belletti sustained the arduous part of *Elijah* with great effect throughout. Madame Sainton-Dolby's "O rest in the Lord," was as sweet and thrilling as ever, and was deservedly encored, as was Mr. Sims Reeves in "Then shall the righteous," a masterpiece of vocal declamation. Altogether, and in spite of a few drawbacks, we question if the *Elijah* has ever been so grandly interpreted before. All the arrangements for the comfort of the vast company, more than 17,000 persons, were excellent.

Parliamentary Proceedings.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

SUNDAY TRADING.

On Thursday, Lord CHELMSFORD, in moving that the House do go into Committee on the Selling and Hawking Goods on Sunday Bill, stated that the object of the bill was to prevent Sunday trading after nine o'clock on Sunday mornings, in order to enable tradesmen, who were now obliged by competition to pursue their trades on Sunday, to employ their time in a manner more consonant with the day and with their feelings. By thus preventing the desecration of the Sabbath they would do much to improve and elevate the moral and religious feeling of the country.

Lord ST. GERMAN opposed the bill, as he considered it would introduce a worse state of things after a short period than it proposed to remedy. He moved that the House go into committee upon it that day six months.

Lord TEYNHAM pointed out what he considered the defects, inequalities, and partialities of the Bill, and concluded a long denunciation of it by concurring with the motion of Lord St. Germans.

Lord DUNGANNON read a letter from a butcher requesting his support of the bill. [While he was reading he was stopped by a general burst of laughter, which he at first seemed inclined to deprecate; but its origin was speedily manifest when it was explained that the letter in question was a copy of a communication very generally addressed to members of their lordships' House.] He had reason to know that the sentiments expressed in that letter, which was very ably written, were shared in by numbers of the trading classes.

The LORD CHANCELLOR had also received a letter from the same writer, the arguments of which had made a deep impression upon his mind. He thought, as it was universally admitted that evils existed, that it was better to allow the bill to go into committee than to reject the measure altogether.

The Earl of ELLENBOROUGH remarked that a noble lord—always a great authority with their lordships—had said on one occasion, "I am ready to put down a riot, but I will not provoke one," and in that spirit he should vote against this bill. (Hear, hear.)

The Bishop of LONDON thought that in this bill there were provisions which might be made the bases of a satisfactory measure, and upon that consideration he hoped the bill would be allowed to go into committee.

Lord GRANVILLE did not think it desirable to legislate upon the subject. Although he agreed with the object which the bill had in view, he should feel bound if the motion was pressed to oppose the bill.

Lord DERBY believed that, although the bill perhaps had some defects, it was based on sound legislative principles, and was much desired by very large numbers of the parties whom it proposed to affect. He should therefore not concur in Lord Grey's proposal for a select committee, but support the motion for going into a committee of the whole House.

The House then divided upon the question whether the bill should go into committee; when the numbers were—

Content	...	...	...	54
Not content	...	...	...	25
Majority	...	...	...	29

After some other business,

The House adjourned at five minutes to eight o'clock.

On Friday, a discussion on the organisation of the infantry regiments of the army was introduced by Lord LUCAN, who was replied to by Earl DE GREY and RIPLEY, and more at length by the Duke of CAMBRIDGE. The Royal Duke concluded by quoting the opinion of Sir C. Wetherall, that the army never worked more smoothly than at present. The House rose early.

CHURCH-RATES.

On Monday, the Earl De Grey and Ripon presented petitions in favour of the abolition of Church-rates from the congregations of the Independent Chapel, the Baptist Chapel, the Wesleyan Chapel, and the Primitive Methodist Chapel, all in Stratford-on-Avon; the Independent Chapel, Wilmore, and the Independent Chapel, Loxley, both near Stratford-on-Avon.

The Earl of Ducie presented petitions to the same effect from the Congregational Chapels of Hanham, Wick, and Upton, the Methodist and Baptist Chapels of Hanham, the Methodist Chapel of Longwells, the Congregational, Methodist, and Wesleyan Methodist Chapels of Oldham-common, and the Methodist Chapel of Bitten, all in the county of Gloucester.

Lord Teynham presented petitions to the same effect from various Dissenting bodies in Berkshire, Oxfordshire, and other parts of the country.

The Duke of Somerset presented petitions to the same effect from places in Devonshire, Lancashire, and other parts of the country.

Petitions against the abolition of Church-rates were presented by the Earl of Carnarvon, the Bishop of Oxford, the Marquis of Salisbury, Lord Wensleydale, and the Bishop of Chichester.

Lord CLANRICARDE, deferring to the wishes of the Government, postponed his motion on Savoy.

The Sunday Trading Bill went into committee pro forma, when amendments were introduced by Lord Chelmsford, and it was ordered to be reprinted. The committee was fixed for Thursday (to-morrow).

Their lordships adjourned at half-past five o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

PUNISHMENT OF AGGRAVATED ASSAULTS.

On Wednesday Lord RAYNHAM moved the second reading of the Aggravated Assaults Act Amendment Bill. The main alteration proposed was that magistrates should have a discretionary power to inflict corporal punishment, and that upon a second conviction such punishment should be rendered compulsory. If the House, however, was disinclined to sanction corporal punishment, he would withdraw that part of the bill, which contained other improvements of the present law.

Mr. CLIVE, giving Lord Raynham credit for humane intentions, objected that it was dangerous to allow the punishment of the lash to be inflicted summarily upon adult males by magistrates, who were apt to be moved by the details of atrocious cases: and moved to defer the second reading of the bill for six months.

After a great deal of discussion, and a reply by Lord Raynham, upon a division, the amendment was negatived by 109 to 85, and the bill was read a second time.

A short debate arose upon a suggestion by Mr. Estcourt to refer the bill to a select committee, with the view of obtaining information upon the subject, to which Lord Raynham demurred, and it was abandoned.

The Malicious Injuries to Property Act Amendment Bill was read a second time, on the motion of Mr. PAULL.

The House then went into committee upon the Fisheries (Scotland) Bill, the clauses of which were agreed to.

The Bank of Ireland Bill was read a second time.

Mr. HENNESSY moved the second reading of the Land Improvement (Ireland) Bill. He continued his argument in support of his bill, and in opposition to the Government Bill, until the close of the sitting, which stopped the debate.

The House adjourned at ten minutes to six o'clock.

PROSECUTIONS FOR BRIBERY.

On Thursday the ATTORNEY-GENERAL said that criminal informations had been filed against Mr. Leatham and Mr. Charlesworth and their abettors in bribery at Wakefield and Gloucester.

THE SAN JUAN AFFAIR.

In answer to Mr. S. Fitzgerald, Lord J. RUSSELL said that the negotiations between this country and the United States with reference to the island of St. Juan were still going on, and he expected an answer to the last proposition of the Government in a short time. There were a hundred men of the forces of each country on the island, and no exclusive jurisdiction was exercised there.

THE REFORM BILL.

The adjourned debate on the second reading of the Representation of the People Bill was resumed.

Mr. MACAULAY asked any one to name a considerable statesman (not in the Government) who gave an ostensible countenance to this measure, and he asserted that, in society, as well as in that House, it was talked of universally with dislike and suspicion.

Mr. GREGORY said he believed that forty out of fifty members of the House looked at this measure with apprehension and alarm. When he recalled the language of Mr. Bright, with reference to the effects of this Bill, he felt convinced that its anomalies would be greater than those complained of under the existing system. He gave a variety of extraordinary details, some of them a little ludicrous, in confirmation of what was, he said, a fact universally acknowledged in the United States—that there was a despotism in the public opinion of that country more grinding and more bitterly felt than the despotism of one man. If these were the fruits of democratic tyranny in a country like America he warned the House, and especially the manufacturing interest, that dangerous doctrines were already appearing on the surface.

Mr. LONGFIELD, at considerable length, opposed the bill, the results of which, he was convinced, would seriously affect the integrity of the institutions of the country.

The SPEAKER interrupted, and said, "An hon. member desires that the House be counted." The sand-glass was immediately turned. Mr. Brand and Mr. Knatchbull-Hugessen left the House, and the effect of their mission was instantly perceptible in the hurry of members from the lobbies. The 30 members present were soon reinforced by as many more, and amid cheers from the Ministerial benches the Speaker counted to 40, and called again on Mr. Longfield.

Mr. LONGFIELD said that if the House had been counted out he should not have much regretted it. (Loud Ministerial cheers.) He frankly admitted that it would have been a fitting tribute to his own speech, but it would have been a far higher tribute to the good sense of the House. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. DIGBY SEYMOUR supported, and Mr. KENDALL opposed the bill.

Sir JOHN RAMSDEN confessed some disappointment at the prospect before them. They had, he said, good reason to hope that a measure might be framed in which all parties might agree. But those who had spoken most strongly in favour of the bill had supported it on different grounds from those assigned by the Government, who had proposed it as their mode of settling the question. But the supporters of the bill did not so regard it. Its warmest advocates had complained of its shortcomings, and considered it only as an instalment of further changes. He thought it most desirable that a measure of this nature should be not only safe but permanent, and, however averse to delay, he did not desire to pass

an imperfect and unsatisfactory measure, with the knowledge that the question must come before them in an exaggerated form another year. It would be far better, in his opinion, to postpone the question, than to pass a temporary measure, unsettling everything and settling nothing.

Mr. WALPOLE admitted that there was much force and justice in the observations of Sir John Ramsden. If the bill passed in its present form, the same policy must carry the Legislature to much greater lengths. Before Easter, he was disposed to vote for the second reading. But he frankly owned that circumstances had occurred since which seemed to him of so startling a character that he hardly knew what he ought to think, or what he ought to do.

Two circumstances had since occurred. They had now been told, on undoubted authority, that the announced intention of reopening the subject of Parliamentary Reform was made by the First Minister of the Crown, without the knowledge or consent of his colleagues.

Lord JOHN RUSSELL: Not true. (Loud cheers.)

Mr. WALPOLE said the point was so important that he was extremely glad the noble lord had interrupted him. The noble lord said the statement was not true, and he implicitly believed him. But a colleague of the noble lord had, at any rate, said that when the proposal was afterwards made, he, being a member of the Government, disagreed with that proposal, and only consented to it because he felt that a tax was going to be made upon a particular department, of which he held the seals of office. And the noble earl went on to say that he confessed and regretted the mistake he had made. This statement had been before the public, and yet, down to the present moment, it had never been contradicted. Of course, after the denial of the noble lord, he could not press that circumstance upon the House, but he was reminded that since that statement was made, the noble lord had addressed the House on the subject of the bill, and yet given no explanation—(Opposition cheers)—and any member might justly have thought that, until some explanation was made, they were warranted in receiving the statement as true. The other circumstance was that a Committee of Inquiry has been granted to the House of Lords. If that inquiry were not completed, the measure would be laid on the shelf; if it were completed, and the information were not accurate, the House would be humiliated.

Mr. GLADSTONE spoke at great length. He said that Mr. Walpole's perplexities on the subject perplexed him. The first circumstance that startled Mr. Walpole—the allegation against Lord John Russell—had been disposed of by Lord John Russell himself. The next circumstance—the grant of a committee to the House of Lords—was disposed of by the remark that the committee was granted on the express understanding that it should not be used to postpone the progress of the bill. Government were satisfied themselves; they granted the committee out of deference to others not satisfied. He hoped that would be the last night of the debate. There is no example of a debate being continued for six nights without a motion on which the House was to divide.

Many seemed to suppose, he proceeded to observe, that it was a treason to the Constitution, or at best a condemnation of it, to introduce a Reform Bill; but the Government had brought forward this measure, not because the present system had failed, but because, excellent as it was, it was nevertheless susceptible of improvement. He put by, he said, questions that might be dealt with more practically in the committee, and addressed himself to the objection to the great principle of the bill—that the 6l. franchise would swamp the constituency by admitting an overwhelming mass of voters who would be bad in quality. Was that true? "Is it altogether just to hold the language that has been held even by my right hon. friend, although in a less definite form than by others, with respect to the inferior qualities of the working man? Sir, I don't admit that the working man, regarded as an individual, is less worthy of the suffrage than any other class. (Hear, hear, from the Opposition.) I don't admit the charges of corruption which my right hon. friend, amid cheers from many of those who sit around him, read from the report of a Committee of the House of Lords. I don't believe that the working men of this country are possessed of a disposition to tax their neighbours and exempt themselves, nor do I acknowledge for a moment that schemes of socialism, of communism, of republicanism, or any other ideas at variance with the law and constitution of the realm, are prevalent and popular among them." Then, what would be the numbers admitted to the borough franchise? It could not exceed 200,000, and was much more likely to be short of 150,000. He entered into calculations in support of this statement, and, with reference to the alarm manifested on account of the gross estimated rental being below the real rent, he denied the truth of the allegation, and its importance if it were true. A large allowance must, moreover, be made for migration from residences, which amounted in one parish to twenty-five per cent. of the population. How did these facts, he asked, justify the allegation that the new constituency would swamp and bear down the old? "Are the working classes to have the lion's share? What is the position of the working classes in regard to the constituency of the country? You have already got a constituency of 410,000; you are going to add 150,000, or at the most extravagant estimate 200,000. That is 660,000. You have got a county constituency of 530,000. We expect to add about 150,000, making in all 685,000. Adding the Universities, the total constituency of England is 1,345,000. That number will be very largely diminished on account, of course, of plurality of votes. I cannot estimate the diminution, but I imagine it would diminish the total number by not less than one-sixth, and the general result would be that after popularising your representation in a country with a population of 20,000,000, and with 5,000,000 adult males, you would have a constituency of about 1,100,000 or 1,200,000. Surely a system which enfranchises one-fourth part of your adult males, and selects that one-fourth part, upon the whole, with great judgment and discretion, is not a very unreasonable system." (Cheers.) Referring to Mr. Gregory's allusions to America, he described them as

far-fetched. "To describe to us the state of things which exists in America as an argument bearing on the discussion of this bill is a matter fetched from far, and wholly irrelevant. It is not only unworthy and unjust in reference to the present bill, but in reference to the people of England, to travel across to America, and in no charitable spirit—"Oh, oh!"—I think I may rather say in a peevish spirit, to describe the many weaknesses, the many defects—perhaps I may say even the many scandals—of American institutions. (Cheers.) Critics coming to England, might, perhaps, find something on which to remark. I think it is a licence which we should do well, as far as we are able, to curb ourselves from indulging. Having spoken of America, I need not deprecate in the same way reference to institutions in the colonies. We are not going to adopt the laws of the colonies; and, if we did, my own belief is that, such is the attachment not only to the law, not only to the institutions, but to their social superiors, even among the trading community, and still more in the rural districts, that even with a very extended popular suffrage you would probably still continue to see the monarchy and aristocracy flourish, as they do now, by the free assent and affectionate support of the people. (Cheers.) For what is it, after all, which in the main supports them now? Do not suppose that it is any conventional arrangement. Do not think that it is anything which may be written on the statute-book. It is the heart, the inclination, the happiness, the sense, the conviction of the mass of the people. That very same feeling, that same tone, character, and sentiment, which made the working classes repose contentedly in your arms, and accept your legislation without a murmur, that same feeling which made them content without the suffrage, will make them still more content and still more trustworthy as the main support of the institutions of the country, after you have made such additions to the representative portion of them as is contemplated by this bill." (Cheers.) He admitted that it was desirable that a measure of reform should have the character of permanency; but he warned the House that it was more likely to obtain permanency by a liberal than by an inappreciable concession to the working classes. The Government, he said, had no such dream as that of withdrawing the bill; but if the other side disliked it, let them adopt the remedy in their own hands, and move its rejection. At all events, let them not pursue a course, by delay, that would render legislation upon the subject impossible.

Mr. COLLINS (understood to be one of twenty-four, each "good for an hour") attempted to address the House. He was cheered on by his Tory friends, but the cries of "Divide!" and those signs of impatience with which the House knows how to cut short an inopportune speaker, soon caused Mr. Collins to sit down.

The bill was then read a second time, and, on the motion of Lord JOHN RUSSELL, it was ordered to be committed on Monday, the 4th of June. (Loud cheers and laughter from the Opposition.)

Mr. MACKINNON gave notice of his intention, on going into a Committee of the whole House on the Reform Bill, to move the following resolution:—

That, in order to obtain a safe and effective reform, it would be inexpedient and unjust to proceed further with the proposed legislative measure for the representation of the people until the House has before it the results of the Census authorised by the bill now under its consideration.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ON THE ADJOURNMENT.

On Friday, on the motion that the House, at its rising, adjourn until Monday,

Mr. COCHRANE asked what steps the Government had taken to protect our commercial interests in Japan? Lord JOHN RUSSELL replied that some important despatches had lately been received. Some differences had arisen with respect to the currency, but he was happy to say that the Japanese Government had taken a moderate and sensible course. He regretted, however, to have to add, that from the state of public feeling several murders had occurred; but although affairs were critical, there were reasonable hopes that they would be adjusted. The greatest care had been taken to avoid giving offence to the populace, and the admiral had orders to send a ship of war to Jeddo as often as possible, in order to keep up a favourable impression.

In reply to a question from Mr. ACTON, as to whether the Foreign Secretary would lay upon the table copies of despatches relating to the administration of the Roman States, Lord JOHN RUSSELL replied that he had no regular diplomatic agent at Rome, but he would see whether there were any papers which would throw light upon the subject of the hon. member's question. The Neapolitan Government had applied to the British Government to use its good offices with Sardinia to restrain the expedition of Garibaldi, and when their co-operation was asked in that manner, they had a right to remonstrate, as they had done with the Neapolitan Government respecting the mode in which it carried on its own Government. In taking in this course, he believed the Government would have the approbation of the country. (Cheers.)

Mr. PALK asked whether Mr. Cobden held any diplomatic appointment at Paris, or was subordinate to the ambassador? In justice to himself and the interests at stake, an official and recognised position ought to be accorded to Mr. Cobden. Lord J. RUSSELL said that at first Mr. Cobden acted in his private capacity, but he had now gone to Paris as one of the three commissioners, under the 13th article of the treaty, with an official order from the Board of Trade and the Board of Customs. He was on a special mission; and although receiving no salary, his expenses would be paid.

Mr. BAILLIE asked if it was true that a telegraphic despatch had been sent out delaying the Chinese expedition until the arrival of Lord Elgin? Lord J. RUSSELL said it was altogether incorrect. It was desirable to press on the operations, and he hoped they would be over before Lord Elgin's arrival.

Lord HENRY THYNNE asked whether there was

any foundation for the report that the final reduction of the wine duties was to take effect in August or September? The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER replied that there was no foundation for the report.

In reply to questions from several members, Sir C. WOOD stated that the relations between the zemindars and the ryot cultivators of indigo were in a most unsatisfactory state. Powers had been given to the magistrates to deal with the cases which arose, to prevent the serious losses which would arise from the non-fulfilments of the indigo contracts. Their powers were only temporary, and a commission would be appointed to inquire into the whole question.

The motion for adjournment until Monday was then agreed to.

DUTIES ON FIRE INSURANCE.

Mr. H. SHERIDAN moved for leave to bring in a bill to amend the law relating to the duties on Fire Insurances. He did not desire the abolition of the duty, but to reduce it in all cases in which the premium was not more than 5s. per cent. to 1s. Mr. E. JAMES seconded the motion. The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER opposed the motion, and urged that although the House might be convinced of the impolicy of the tax, it was bound to consider the state of the revenue.

After some further discussion, the House divided:—

For the bill	84
Against it	108
Majority	—24

The motion was therefore lost.

EMBANKMENT OF THE THAMES.

Sir J. PAXTON moved for the appointment of a select committee to consider the best means of providing for the increasing traffic of the metropolis by the embankment of the Thames. Mr. COWPER, on the part of the Government, assented to the appointment of the committee, which was agreed to.

The Poor Law Medical Relief Bill was withdrawn. The Innkeepers' Liability Bill was read a second time.

The House then adjourned.

TROOPS FOR CHINA.

On Monday, in reply to Sir S. NORTHGOTE, as to the troops to be despatched to China from India,

Mr. S. HERBERT said, there were five regiments of European Infantry, and probably two additional British regiments, amounting in the whole to 7,484 men, the five regiments including 5,500 men, and the two additional regiments 1,984 men. He said there would also be five regiments of Irregular Native Infantry, consisting of about 4,000 men; one regiment of Native Cavalry, of 400 men; and two companies of Madras Sappers, amounting together to 200 men; making in all 4,600. So that the British force, consisting of 7,484, and the native force, of 4,600, would make a total of 12,084. With other additions, the whole of the available force would be about 14,000 in round numbers, irrespective, of course, of the garrison at Hong Kong.

MR. WALTER, MR. HORSMAN, AND THE "TIMES."

Mr. WALTER called attention to a correspondence between Mr. Horsman and himself, arising out of a charge made by Mr. Horsman, who had intimated his intention of bringing it before the House, that, in a speech made by Mr. Walter in the House on the previous Monday, he had used language which, taken in conjunction with an article in the *Times*, conveyed an imputation upon the character of the House. Mr. Horsman having, however, abandoned his intention of inviting the attention of the House to the matter, further correspondence ensued, and Mr. Walter complained of Mr. Horsman having connected his speech with the article in the *Times*, with which, he said, he had nothing to do, not knowing even who was the writer, and he denied that his connexion with the journal involved him in any special responsibility for anything that might appear in it. He read a portion of the correspondence, leaving Mr. Horsman to read the remainder if he thought proper.

Mr. HORSMAN, after expressing his unfeigned regret that Mr. Walter had taken this course, read the article of which he complained, and stated the construction he put upon it, namely, that it contained a gross calumny and an insulting aspersion upon the House of Commons. He then read a very long letter, which closed his correspondence with Mr. Walter, and which contained an elaborate but by no means encomiastic criticism upon the *Times*. He argued that Mr. Walter, as a proprietor of the paper, was directly responsible for the article of which he complained, paying, at the same time, a warm tribute to his personal character.

A few playful remarks by Lord PALMERSTON, followed by others in the same spirit by Mr. DISRAELI, put a stop to further discussion, and the subject dropped.

THE WINE LICENCES BILL.

The adjourned debate on the second reading of the Refreshment Houses and Wine Licences Bill, and the amendment to defer the second reading for six months, was then resumed.

Mr. AYRTON argued at considerable length against the bill, the opposition to which, he said, was founded upon a great and intelligible principle, that the intemperance of the people was nearly in precise proportion to the opportunities and incitements for drinking offered by the number of houses established.

Mr. LIDDELL likewise opposed the bill. Alderman SALOMONS supported the bill, which he thought would supply a great public want without interfering with the interests of licensed victuallers or any other class opposed to the measure. The bill,

he said, contained a great many errors, but he believed that in the committee it might be made not only unobjectionable, but popular.

Mr. JAMES opposed the bill because it was unjust towards a large number of persons, the licensed victuallers, who had invested a large capital upon a monopoly created, not by themselves, but by restrictions imposed upon them by the Legislature. The wine-houses established under the bill would, he contended, become public-houses without magisterial control.

Mr. VILLIERS defended, and Mr. HENLEY objected to the bill. The latter said that his objections went to the whole framework of the bill, which it was almost impossible to alter in committee.

Mr. BUXTON said the brewers had nothing to do with the opposition to this bill; they had, one and all, refused to take any part in the agitation against it. Having, however, considered the bill studiously, he had been driven reluctantly to the conclusion that he ought to oppose it, on the ground that it would strongly tend to promote intoxication.

Sir S. M. Peto supported the second reading of the bill. There were many things in it to which he strongly objected, but none, he thought, that might not be corrected in committee.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER asked whether the House meant to stand by the present licence system. The Government had offered a measure, which they asked the House to read a second time, reserving the details for the committee. The real question was, whether the bill was likely to cause a great increase of intemperance. After stating that he had received from distinguished friends of the cause of temperance assurances that they were in favour of the bill, and averting to the various opinions upon the subject of alcoholic drinks, he showed that the present system of licensing was full of defects and anomalies. This bill was intended to give an opening to the consumption of the lighter wines of France, and to unite the two operations of eating and drinking, which the effect of the existing system was to disunite.

After a few words from Mr. NEWDEGATE, and loud cries for a division, the House divided. The numbers were—

For the second reading	267
Against	193
Majority	—74

The numbers were received with cheering.

The bill was then read a second time.

CENSUS (IRELAND) BILL.

On the motion for the second reading, Mr. SCULLY objected to proceed with the bill at so late an hour. He did not see why a census should not be taken in Ireland every year.

Mr. CARDWELL hoped his hon. friend would not object to the second reading, and reserve any suggestions he might wish to make for another occasion. The same system would be adopted now as had been employed on former occasions, and the Irish constabulary would do the work for almost nothing.

After a few remarks from Mr. HADFIELD and Mr. M'CANN, the bill was read a second time.

Foreign and Colonial.

FRANCE.

The Corps Legislatif, after an unusually protracted debate, extending over four days, voted on Friday, by a majority of 249 against 4, in favour of a "project of law concerning the tariff of wools, cottons, and other raw material." M. Baroche did not hold out the least hope of the abandonment of the system of specific duties, which commercial men in England seem to think impracticable. He did not even allude to the subject as one of difficulty in the point of view in which it is regarded on our side of the Channel. Some of the Opposition speakers had complained that the specific duties were to be settled by a supplemental treaty, which would be drawn up after the recommendations of an "international commission," which, being composed of free-traders, would naturally vote in a particular way. To this M. Baroche replied that there would be no international commission. The negotiators on each side would make their inquiries, and would consider the rates of specific duties, and with regard to any article to which they could not agree the highest *ad valorem* duty, namely thirty per cent., would be levied during the whole period to which the treaty extended. Mr. Cobden was in the gallery, attentively listening to the debate during the four days.

The *Moniteur* publishes a note by M. Thouvenel, dated April 16, showing that the annexation of the neutralised districts of Savoy to France will not change the situation of Switzerland.

The bill for improving the navy, approved by the Council of State, has been presented to the Legislative Corps. It will increase the number of vice-admirals to twelve, and that of rear-admirals to twenty-four.

The shipowners of Dieppe have petitioned the Emperor to maintain differential duties on articles imported into France in foreign shipping. The shipowners of Marseilles are preparing a petition to the same effect, in which they state that the adoption of Mr. Lindsay's proposition would inflict fatal injury on all French seaports.

The *Patrie* believes itself correct in stating that no decision has yet been taken relative to the evacuation of Rome.

The same paper says:—"It is asserted that Marshal M'Mahon will take the command of the camp of Chalons at the beginning of June next." The *Constitutionnel* has an article by its chief

editor, M. Grandguillot, condemning the efforts which are being made to cause the fall of Count Cavour. It details the difficulties which have been successfully overcome by Piedmont, and points out the political importance which she has acquired by the consent of Europe. It extols the policy of Count Cavour, and commends him for resisting the efforts of those who would exceed that policy. This article also clearly declares that Europe, and France particularly, will energetically disapprove aggression, and that the work of Piedmont is no more to extend her boundaries, but to assimilate herself with the annexed provinces.

NORTHERN AND CENTRAL ITALY.

The King of Sardinia has made an enthusiastic progress through Emilia. The Syndics of the Romagna have presented addresses to the King, adding 5,000,000 of francs as a voluntary contribution towards the expenses of the State. The clergy of Bologna also presented an address to his Majesty on the 2nd. A splendid ball was given at the theatre in honour of the King, who was most enthusiastically received. A hymn was sung by 100 of the principal lady inhabitants. The hall was crowded. The number of persons present was about 4,500.

The result of the elections which are known up to the present time shows a considerable majority in favour of the Ministry. General Garibaldi has only obtained 35 votes at Turin, and Signor Laurenti only 14.

THE ROMAN STATES.

It is said by the *Opinione Nazionale* of Turin, that Cardinal Antonelli has regained his ascendancy over the Pope, and that General Lamoriciere may be dismissed at a very short notice. A letter from Rome says that only 4,000 men are wanted to make up the army. The Pope, it says, wishes only to have 20,000, and intends to take no steps for the recovery of the Romagna. It adds that people of the first families in France and Belgium are enlisting in his Holiness's service.

ROME (*via* Marseilles), May 5.

One thousand Irishmen have left Trieste for Ancona in order to be enrolled in the Pontifical army. Letters deny that M. de Corcelles has been appointed Minister, and state that he will soon return to France.

It is certain that the Duc de Grammont, in accordance with instruction received from Paris, has declared to the Holy See that the French garrison will not leave the Papal territory until the Sovereign Pontiff himself shall have acknowledged that the departure of the French troops could take place without any danger to the tranquillity and safety of his States.

THE INSURRECTION IN SICILY.

The Paris *Patrie* of Monday says:—"We learn that General Garibaldi has left for Sicily, with an expeditionary corps d'armée." The *Patrie* adds:—"General Garibaldi, by acting thus, commits an action which falls under the application of the law against piracy." The same journal further says:—"The Sardinian Cabinet has ordered the Sardinian vessels off Sicily to oppose, with armed force, any attempt which may be made by individuals who have embarked in vessels hoisting the Sardinian flag."

The *Armonia* of Turin publishes an analysis of Mazzini's proclamation to the Sicilians. In calling upon them to rise, he says:—

I was for unity before I was a Republican; that is the reason why I am now ready to sacrifice my own ideas in favour of a loyal and national monarchy. Let all the peoples of the Peninsula become one people. Vive Victor Emmanuel, King of Italy! Sicilians, the hour has come. To arms, in the name of Italy!

GIUSEPPE MAZZINI.

The Paris *Pays*, which at first made light of the Sicilian insurrection, and regularly announced every evening for the last fortnight that it was altogether put down, now complains that everything on the subject is "contradictory, vague, dark, mysterious, and that it is impossible to know how matters really stand." It proceeds to quote the following letter from the *Semaphore* of Marseilles:—

Palermo, April 25.

We are in a complete revolution. Palermo has been in a state of siege ever since the 4th, and the whole country has risen. Every night there are combats between the poor peasantry and the Neapolitan soldiers, who burn and pillage wherever they go. A great proportion of the nobility is in prison, and the remainder wish to leave the country, but the police refuse them passports. We are at any moment liable to be pillaged by *sbirri*, and not by the peasants, as the police endeavour to make foreigners believe. Fourteen unfortunate men were lately shot for a conspiracy; but only three of them were really guilty.

A Malta correspondent announces the receipt of direct intelligence at that island to the 26th of April, from Palermo, and to the 27th *idem* from Messina. The insurgents outside of the town and in the country districts about Palermo were maintaining a firm position, and a Royal regiment is suspected of an inclination to fraternise with them. A Sardinian frigate is said to have arrived at Palermo, to protect the subjects of the King of Italy, which fact has encouraged the people. At Messina matters were quiet, but alarm had not yet subsided, and most of the shops continued closed. Both there and at Catania the people were awaiting the result of affairs at Palermo.

The *Piedmontese Gazette* contains the following despatch, dated Palermo, Thursday, 3rd inst.:—

The inhabitants are re-opening their shops. The agitation is diminishing. The lieutenant-general has published a proclamation declaring the town to be no longer in a state of siege.

SPAIN.

There is no longer any doubt about the unconditional submission of Count de Montemolin to Queen Isabella. The French papers publish the text of his abdication of all pretensions to the throne of Spain. It is signed:—"CARLOS LOUIS DE BOURBON AND DE BRAGANZA." The renunciation of Don Fernando is couched in similar terms.

The *Constitutionnel* states that the only condition attached to the general amnesty in Spain is, that parties wishing to avail themselves of it, must take the Oath of Allegiance to Queen Isabella.

A decree granting a general amnesty has been published. Count Montemolin and his brother Ferdinand will take their departure for Spain.

The Cortes have been convoked for the 25th of May.

AMERICA.

The papers are full of the meeting of the National Democratic Convention at Charleston. The proceedings of the first two days were devoid of interest, but, according to the general tenor of the telegrams from Charleston they indicated a preference, on the part of a majority of the members of the Convention, for Senator Douglas, as the nominee of the Democratic party for the Presidency. Mr. Guthrie, of Kentucky, a member of President Pierce's cabinet, also appeared to be a prominent favourite. Mr. Caleb Cushing, who had been chosen to preside over the Convention, was Attorney-General during the Pierce administration. The *Times* New York correspondent says:—

If the advices from Charleston can be relied on, Mr. Douglas's chances for the succession are over for this election. The combination will be too strong for him. Then, who will be the unhappy happy man? It is easier to say who will not be than it is to say who will be.

The writer thinks, however, that some moderate Southern man will be chosen.

The Republican Convention for the selection of a candidate is to be held at Chicago in about a fortnight, and between now and then there was to be an "Old Whig" Convention at Baltimore, to galvanise the dead bones of that party. The action of both of these conventions would depend upon the action of the Charleston Convention.

INDIA.

Intelligence from Calcutta to April 7.

The Bank of Bengal has reduced its rate of discount 17s. all round.

It is reported on the authority of letters received from Bombay to the 11th ult., that orders had been given in Bombay and Madras to suspend the despatch of troops to China, hopes being entertained of an amicable arrangement of the pending difficulties.

Khan Bahadur had been hung.

The disturbances among the indigo planters appeared to be subsiding.

AUSTRALIA.

Advices from Melbourne, to March 17, described the state of trade as very unsatisfactory. Several failures had taken place, including Messrs. W. M. Bell and Co., Rae, Dickson and Co., Henriquez, Brothers, and Tickle. 148,000 ounces of gold had been shipped during the month.

The new gold fields in New South Wales were very productive, and attract diggers from Victoria. Trade was brisk. The supply of wool plentiful.

The South Australian Parliament had been dissolved. The elections of new members were proceeding. Seasonable rains had fallen lately.

A letter from Melbourne says:—

The electric cable has been successfully laid from Singapore to Batavia. The cable from Aden to Kurra- chee is now being laid, and it is understood that the Mediterranean break will be supplied in seven or eight months. This reduces our means of communication to the 3,030 miles between Moreton Bay and the east end of Java. The New South Wales Legislature has voted its proportion of 10,000*l.*, and our Legislature is asked for its proportion of 25,000*l.* Papers are moved for, and I believe the vote will pass.

There is a native outbreak in New Zealand, which Governor Brown appears to have met with due energy. The dispute is about certain land at Taranaki, New Plymouth. It would no doubt be put down.

FOREIGN MISCELLANY.

The patriot baker, Giuseppe Dalli, has received the honour of knighthood from the King of Sardinia.

The *Mainzer Journal* announces that the chief command of all Austrian *corps d'armée* in Italy has been entrusted to Prince Alexander of Hesse.

Advices received from Constantinople to the 28th ultimo report that Belgium had offered the Porte 40,000,000*l.* for the island of Cyprus.

Said Pasha (Egypt) has nominated several officers chosen from among the native Christians. This example of tolerance has produced a sensation.

Up to the 23th of April the injury to the Red Sea telegraphic cable had not been repaired, and consequently telegraphic communication between Aden and Suez remained interrupted.

Chevalier Bunsen, we (*Athenæum*) are informed, is going to leave Heidelberg, and will take up his future abode at Bonn, in order to pursue the literary labours which he has in hand.

A conspiracy is said to have been discovered at St. Petersburg. From 100 to 200 persons, chiefly of the Noble Guard, have been arrested. The conspiracy is believed to have been caused by dissatisfaction with the Emperor's projects for emancipating the serfs of his dominions.

PUBLIC EDUCATION.

Pending the investigations of the Education Commission, whose labours will, we presume, be brought to a close, before the session is terminated, there are many signs that the interest in the question of public education is unabated, and that the report of the Commission is awaited with considerable anxiety. An elaborate article in the new number of the *Edinburgh Review* on this subject will greatly strengthen the hands of the opponents of the Privy Council system, and may, we hope, be taken as a sign that Government will be prepared to back up the Commissioners should they deem it expedient to propose substantial changes in the present system. The reviewer, after reducing one-half the estimate made by Mr. Horace Mann on the last census report, that 4,000,000 of children, between three and fifteen years of age, ought to be at school, proceeds to detail the expenditure for 1855, and then makes various important suggestions, which we advert to as showing the dissatisfaction of an influential Whig organ with the system now in operation. One of these relates to pupil teachers:—

One-third of the whole of this expenditure goes to pupil-teachers. It is now a question among school-teachers themselves how far pupil-teachers are beneficial. However, on this vexed question we express no decided opinion, aware how difficult it is to collect general results from individual experiences, varying probably as they do, of the character of the pupils by whom each master happens to have been blessed or afflicted. The number and extent to which this branch of the system is being carried is, however, more within the test supplied by the report of the committee. And it results from the figures, that if pupil-teachers are to be multiplied at the rate at which they were going last year, and that if each year is to turn out at the termination of their training only two-thirds of the number who were admitted in 1858 (that is, 2,242), in four years there will be enough of these young teachers to take possession of all the 9,384 schools and departments of inspected schools, and to turn adrift that number of existing teachers. Nor is this all; for in another four years there would be another crop of 9,000 or 10,000 ready to oust and replace them. And four years would be the average duration of a school-teacher's professional career. Of course, this is a rough sketch. A slight deduction must be made, because by a recent Minute of Council four is to be the maximum of pupil-teachers allowed to any one teacher—a number, however, which few masters exceed. Possibly in this direction a retrenchment of expenses might be made.

The *Edinburgh* is disposed to believe that stipendiary monitors at yearly payments of 5*l.* or 6*l.* would supply all the assistance gained from the worst half of the pupil-teachers.

The reviewer would "readjust" the capitation grants, "which have scarcely answered their object."

The general opinion is, that they have not to any material extent prolonged or increased the attendances, and it is certain that in some cases they have merely replaced local contributions, and that in others the condition on which they are granted, namely, that the school pence shall not exceed fourpence per week, prevents the managers from exacting from parents payments which they are well able to make. So that, instead of increasing the school fund, they substitute public assistance for private benevolence or parental duty. If it be thought inexpedient to withhold them, might they not be well appropriated to the payment of stipendiary monitors? Let them go to the teaching power of the school, and, in sums large enough to be appreciated, to children selected for their superior merit and intelligence. This would again reduce the expense of pupil-teachers.

He is also of opinion that the building grants are capable of reduction.

Is due care always taken by the inspector, as a preliminary, to ascertain that the size and simplicity of the building are adapted to its uses? We believe not: we could adduce instances of superfluous expenditure.

Another point touched upon is the present system of inspection.

Mr. Lowe has called the attention of Parliament to the extra cost resulting from the present plan of having a separate staff of inspectors exclusively attached to each church or doctrinal denomination. There are distinct staffs for national schools; for union and certified industrial schools; for British and Foreign schools; for Roman Catholic schools; for Scottish Episcopal schools; for schools connected with, and also for those not connected with, the Established Church of Scotland. This certainly appears to be carrying the desire to humour sectarianism at the public expense a little too far. The inspectors of Dissenting schools are laymen, but they are not necessarily Dissenters; in point of fact, they are nearly all members of the Church of England, and graduates of Oxford or Cambridge. The necessity of inspecting Church schools by clerical inspectors is by no means manifest, and we have ground to think that the Church at large does not require it. It is a relic of the old clerical opposition to any Government interference in education, which was softened only by concessions to the prejudices or to the fears of the Establishment.

An amalgamation of the staff of inspectors is suggested as calculated to produce greater economy as well as efficiency. "No new inspectors would be needed for some years."

Mr. Arnold's last report on the British and Foreign Training School indicates that a further economy is not only feasible, but requisite. He says:—

The parents of these children (those in British and Foreign Schools) would not willingly consent that their daughters' school-time should be taken up with learning the details of practical house-keeping. In this middling class of society, girls grow up, no doubt, with a lamentable ignorance of these details. So they do in the richer classes; and, in the richer classes, one hears people sometimes lament that girls are not taught to bake, to cook, and to wash. But these very people would be indignant if they found that their daughters' school-time was actually occupied with learning cookery or clear-starching instead of languages or music. So it is with the middling class of society, from which British schools are

mainly recruited. Doubtless, girls in this class are ignorant of domestic economy; but this is not the ignorance which their parents send them to school to remove. Rightly or wrongly, they think that their position in life may enable them to dispense with a practical knowledge of any branch of industrial work except needlework, and to find others who will perform such work for them. What they want for their daughters, what they send them to school to require, is what is called a liberal education.—(*Minutes*, 1858-59, p. 34.)

The reviewer adds this remarkable comment:—

If it be true (and it is not easy to doubt Mr. Arnold's testimony) that the schools connected with the British and Foreign Society are filled mainly by children from the middle classes, it seems that much of the public money which was intended to educate the poor is applied to educate those who cannot perhaps be called rich, but who can still less be called poor. The better these primary schools become, the greater is the inducement to the middle classes to avail themselves of the advantages they afford at a very low rate.

Miscellaneous News.

EXETER HALL.—At the annual meeting of proprietors, a dividend of three per cent. was declared, and a resolution was also carried, with only one dissentient, "That the directors should take immediate steps for making better staircases and entrances to the large hall."

THE CITY OF LONDON RIFLE BRIGADE was inspected on Saturday by the Duke of Cambridge, their honorary colonel. It is estimated that no fewer than 25,000 or 30,000 persons were present. A grand review of volunteers is announced to take place in Hyde-park on the 18th inst., preliminary to the grand review by the Queen some time next month.

THE GREAT NORTHERN RAILWAY ACCIDENT.—**VERDICT.**—The jury at the inquest have given in their decision to the effect that the rail (near the Hatfield station) which gave way and occasioned the catastrophe, was unsafe, but that its unsoundness was not visible, and therefore not known to the company's servants; and consequently, after acquitting the platelayers, and suggesting certain precautions for the future, they returned a verdict of "Accidental death."

A MURDER OF A VERY BRUTAL CHARACTER has just been committed in the neighbourhood of Wigan, the victim being a farmer, and the immediate cause a wayside squabble. Several men, after cruelly maltreating the poor old man, buried him under a mound of earth; but whether he died from the personal violence which was first inflicted upon him, or from suffocation occasioned by his subsequent burial, does not yet appear. Three men are in custody, and a verdict of "wilful murder" has been returned against them by the coroner's jury.

THE IRISH EXODUS.—The continued reports in the Irish provincial papers seem to prove that there has been little or no exaggeration with respect to the extent of emigration during the present season. A Clare paper, speaking of the class of persons leaving that county, remarks that the emigrants are chiefly composed of the remaining members of families who are hastening to join some relative, who, having previously pioneered the way, and been successful, had, perhaps, transmitted money to enable the rest to emigrate.

THE ROYAL ACADEMY EXHIBITION.—A great banquet took place on Saturday to inaugurate the opening of the exhibition in Trafalgar-square. The distinguished company comprised most of her Majesty's Ministers and the chiefs of the late Government. Sir Chas. Eastlake presided, and the principal speakers were Lord Palmerston, the Duke of Somerset, Mr. Sidney Herbert, the Dean of St. Paul's, Sir Benjamin Brodie, Earl Stanhope, and the Marquis of Lansdowne. The Bishops of Oxford and London were among the guests, the former acting as Chaplain of the Royal Academy.

THE CIVIL SERVICE ESTIMATES have been printed, and the aggregate is no less than 6,644,328*l.* It was intimated early in the session, that there would be some decrease on the total of last year, and so there is, though we regret to find that it amounts to only 107,618*l.* This, however, is less the fault of the Government than of the House of Commons, and less the fault of the House than of the classes who are continually clamouring for grants from the public purse. The estimates for education in England, which last year reached 836,920*l.*, are less by 38,753*l.*—a good omen; but to set against this there is an augmentation of 21,254*l.* in Ireland.—*Leeds Mercury.*

THE DREADED DISSOLUTION OF PARLIAMENT.—Under no circumstances at all likely to arise can there be a dissolution of Parliament in consequence of the bill becoming law, until December, 1861. The claims to vote in the counties must be sent in before the 20th July in each year; and unless the bill became law before the 20th July next, no claims arising out of the extended franchise which it confers could be made before the 20th July, 1861, or could come into effect before the last few weeks of that year. The prospect of dissolution is, therefore, not so imminent as members generally appear to think. The Parliament is a year old, and with nearly two years more of its existence left unmenaced by this bill, it is in a fair way of attaining the three years which, in these times, no Parliament can fairly expect to exceed by any considerable period.—*Globe.*

OUTRAGE AT A BAPTIST CHAPEL.—A malicious outrage has been perpetrated at the Baptist chapel. When the chapel-keeper entered the edifice on Sunday morning to make the necessary arrangements for holding divine service he found the place in a disgraceful condition. The pillars supporting the gallery were encrusted with tar; and so was the

wood work in front of the pulpit. But not only here had the perpetrators of this wanton piece of wickedness found scope for their malice, for, with one exception, all the seats in the body of the chapel were also covered with tar, the brush with which it had been applied having been left behind when the scoundrels left. The books too, at least such as were not locked in the cupboards in the pews, were thrown into the baptismal font, and were floating on the water, some of them being much damaged with the water, while others had evidently received a dab with the tar brush, and in some cases the cupboards which had contained them were also daubed with the filth. The gallery, for some reason or other, did not appear to have been visited. It is needless, perhaps, to say that divine service could not take place in the chapel that day, the friends having to make use of the school-room for that purpose.—*Wakefield Express.*

MASSACRE OF A MISSIONARY CREW.—The following letter has been received by Captain Halstead, the secretary of Lloyd's, from their agent at Falkland Islands, communicating particulars of the massacre of the crew of the Patagonian mission brig, Allen Gardner:—

Stanley, Falkland Islands, March 14.

Sir,—I beg to inform you of the loss of the Patagonian mission schooner Allen Gardner. She sailed from this port on the 7th October last, for Woolya, Terra del Fuego, taking back several natives who had previously been brought to these islands. As nothing was heard of them for three months, the schooner Nancy, Captain Smyley, was chartered to go in search, and at once proceeded to Woolya (Beagle Channel), where he found the schooner Allen Gardner in possession of the natives. One of the crew (Edward Cole) came off in a canoe, with the information that he was the only survivor of the Allen Gardner. Mr. Garland Phillips, the catechist; Captain Fell; his brother, who acted as mate, and five seamen, were all set upon immediately after prayers on the 6th of November, and murdered by the natives. Cole was the only person left on board, to cook dinner, and from the ship saw the whole. He took the remaining boat and got to the woods, where he remained many days. One of the tribe found him, and took him to the settlement. They spared his life to tell the deplorable tale. The Nancy did not anchor, as she was surrounded by the canoes. As soon as he got Cole, and enticed Jemmy Button on board, he set sail, and is now gone back with extra hands and weapons, to recover the bodies, if possible, of the murdered persons, and get possession of the schooner.

Law and Police.

THE FRAUDS ON THE UNION BANK.—**COMMITTAL OF PULLINGER.**—The examination of Pullinger was resumed on Friday at the Mansion House. William Gomm, cashier of the bank, deposed that on April 12, on balancing the notes in the tills of the cashiers, he found there was 350*l.* deficient. The prisoner told him he had had the money out on miscellaneous bills, and gave the number of the notes of which that 350*l.* consisted, and also a memorandum of the deficiency. The next witnesses were Mr. James Sheldon and Mr. Robert Johnston, members of the Stock Exchange. To one of them the prisoner had paid 150*l.* on the 12th of April, and to the other 200*l.* on the same day. Two clerks from different banking-houses proved that the notes paid in by Mr. Sheldon and Mr. Barton bore the same numbers as the notes in the deficiency, and which numbers had been given to Mr. Gomm by the prisoner on the 12th of April. Mr. Barton, a clerk the Union Bank, kept the accounts of all sums paid into the Bank of England, and on the authority of a docket in prisoner's handwriting, the 350*l.* was set down as having been paid into the Bank of England on April 12th. A clerk from the Bank of England proved that there was no entry of 350*l.* paid into the Bank of England on that day. The prisoner in reply as to whether he wished to ask the witnesses any questions, said, "No, I do not wish to give any trouble." The Lord Mayor, after saying that it was his intention to commit him to trial, also asked the prisoner if he had anything to say; to which an answer in the negative was given. The depositions having been read over, the prisoner was then committed. Pullinger and Lytleton were again brought up. Pullinger appeared quite unconcerned—he said he had not employed a solicitor to defend himself, but he had engaged Mr. Humphrey to defend Lytleton. Lytleton was then placed by the side of Pullinger, and both were charged with stealing 3,000*l.* Evidence having been given for the prosecution, it was contended, on the part of Lytleton, that no case had been made out against him,—he had only acted under instructions, as usual, from his superior officer. There was not the least proof, it was submitted, of even any dereliction of duty on his part, and as to complicity there was none. The Lord Mayor was decidedly of opinion that there was no case against Lytleton, and he was therefore discharged without a stain on his character. (Great cheering.) Pullinger pleaded guilty, and on both cases he was committed for trial.

Obituary.

THE ARCHBISHOP OF YORK, the Right Hon. and Most Rev. Dr. Thomas Musgrave, D.D., died on Friday, in Belgrave-square. He was son of a draper in Cambridge, where he was born in 1788. In 1837 Dr. Musgrave was appointed, by the late Viscount Melbourne, Bishop of Hereford, and on the death of the venerable Dr. Harcourt was translated to the Archbishopric of York. The late Archbishop was Primate of England, a Governor of the Charter House, and of King's College, Oxford; a Commissioner for building churches, and Elector of St. Augustine's College, Canterbury. In the patronage of the Archbishop were ninety-six livings, which he dispensed most impartially, and with credit to his exalted position. The diocese comprises the whole of Yorkshire, with the exception of a portion belonging to the See of Ripon, and is of the annual value of 10,000.

DEATH OF LADY EARDLEY.—Lady Eardley died on Tuesday, after a long illness. The deceased lady was the daughter of the late T. W. Carr, Esq., of Froguel,

Hampstead, and Eshott, Northumberland. She was married to Sir Culling Eardley in 1832.

SIR WILLOUGHBY COTTON died on Friday morning, at his residence, in Lowndes-square. Deceased was the only son of Admiral Cotton, cousin of Lord Combermere, and a nephew of Sir Willoughby Aston Willoughby, and was born in 1783. The late Sir Willoughby was the great friend of the late General Sir Henry Havelock.

DEATH OF SIR JOHN MELVILLE.—We regret to announce the death of Sir John Melville, who for so many years was Lord Provost of Edinburgh. The event was sudden and altogether unlooked for. A cold, caught last week on the journey to Oxford, whither he had gone to place his son, resulted in fever, and he died at his house in Heriot Row, Edinburgh, on Saturday morning. He was knighted by her Majesty in person in the ancient Palace of Holyrood, when she last left the city on the home journey from Balmoral.

Literature.

The Mill on the Floss. By GEORGE ELIOT, Author of "Adam Bede," &c. 3 vols. Edinburgh and London: W. Blackwood and Sons. A story that gives its reader very much pleasure, besides awakening an interest of a deeper kind than the merely pleasurable, deserves that, when we begin to speak of it, we give it a respectful and grateful word. Let it be said, then, that no novel of the last twelvemonth is comparable to "The Mill on the Floss" for originality and power, for skilful delineation of character, and the leavening of incident with reflective thought and natural feeling. But it is the misfortune of a successful writer, and especially of the author of a very popular novel, that he is expected by the public and by a certain order of critics, that he shall be "equal to himself"; by which is meant, in great part, that he shall be like himself. A difference in the general complexion of a story, or in the materials out of which it is constructed, is seldom favourably judged by those whose partialities have been gratified by a previous work; and whose capacity for enjoyment, or critical approbation, may have clung parasitically to certain marked features of that accepted work. Of course authors pity, from their supernal height, this effect of the "limited natures" of their public and critics. Still, authors know that it will be so; and the knowledge operates to induce an unnatural effort to preserve their popular qualities, and to be what they are expected to be. Authors are of just the same stuff as their public and their critics; and judge the judgment of themselves as freely and severely as that judgment was formed and uttered; and are influenced by it, notwithstanding, both negatively and positively, favourably and unfavourably. "George Eliot" appears to us not to have escaped the more injurious influence of public expectation. The resemblances of the whole by-play in "The Mill on the Floss" to that in "Adam Bede," and the use of characters of the same general type, seem to indicate a wish to give the world again what the world has applauded to an *encore*; and there is a corresponding effort, unnatural and even painful, to imitate himself. (Of course we say *himself*, because the author chooses to be known as "George;" though the *woman* is apparent enough in this book, had it not been so in the earlier ones.) It is not that he is *not equal* to himself, that makes his present story, notwithstanding all its merits, a little tiresome and unsatisfactory to us, but that there is too much strain to be like himself. Or, if the author is not conscious of any such effort, a more serious allegation may be urged; namely, that already, besides having, like his Dodson family, a "way of his own," he has already fallen into a mannerism, that may limit and depress the exercise of his great gifts.

The story of this book—the fortunes and misfortunes of the Trulliver family, of Dorlcote Mill, on the Floss—is slighter, and of less various and intense interest, than that of "Adam Bede." But the development of the character of Maggie Trulliver, its heroine, is not less able than that of Dinah the Methodist, or poor Hetty, in the former novel: and it presents a character-problem—most carefully studied, or, perhaps apprehended rather with clear far-reaching insight—in which mingle psychological and moral elements equally significant and subtle with those (of which we have found ourselves speaking more than once to our readers,) in the wonderful little story of "Janet's Repentance." Maggie is the most original conception the author has yet wrought out; and saves this book from any imputation of real inferiority to its popular predecessors.

All the interest of the book gathers about this Maggie. We are attracted by the uncommon child,—the dark-eyed, demonstrative, wayward little brunette: we find a living, growing reality beneath all that she appears and does, until we are spell-bound by the full, uncommon-looking young woman, with her hair of night and her glorious fathomless eyes; and find her the

Maggie of bygone years still, the child of imagination and passion—of imagination penetrated by rare intellectual energy, of passion finely pure but strangely deep and strong. We watch her perplexed life, full of bitter experience and suffering: and we do not wonder at, but comprehend, her quick partial judgments, her impulsive acting, her seeming waywardness and even cunning; while, deep, deep within, a lofty truthfulness, a noble generosity, and a capacity for vehement love, give inner consistency to her life, and lift her, as to essential character, far above the gently good and sweetly harmonious Lucy, her cousin, with whose loves her own, in a few evil days of temptation, become perplexed, to the sorrow and misery of both, and of all whom blood or personal attraction had bound up with Maggie's fortunes. We own her weakness, her selfishness, in spite of a noble heart, and of spasms of sincere effort at ruling her life by the spirit of resignation and self-denial: but we feel the strength and severity of her struggles, and the genuine purity of her aspirations and purposes; and we confess the presence of a virtue even in her failures, which is greater than that of moral triumph in natures less "wonderfully and fearfully made" than was hers. She was to be blamed, without palliation, when she, engaged as she was to Philip Wakem, so far as to involve her truth and honour, permitted herself to yield—not, indeed, without struggling attempts at self-conquest, yet, on the whole, with gradually increasing inclination, to yield—to the influence of a mutual sensual attraction between her cousin's lover, Stephen Guest, and herself. But this was her greatness—that she triumphed when her temptation was greatest,—triumphed perfectly when even in so doing her suffering must needs be the sorest, not in her secret heart only, but in reputation, and the outer elements of happiness. There was grandeur in the victory achieved at a time when her passions were strangely excited, when her weakness was assailed by the violent love and anguish and indignation of her tempter, and when to take the pledged lover of her cousin for her husband was made easy by opportunity, and seemed the only solution of a dark perplexity,—it was the victory of a pure and loving soul, following the ideal of conscience and reason, though through the wild tangle and the piercing briars and the starless night.

But we are not sure that the moral will be clear or healthy to all readers. Of course those who Goethe-ize on the affinities and relations of men and women, will hold that the formal tie between Stephen and Lucy, and Philip and Maggie, ought to have withered away before the true and inevitable attraction of Stephen and Maggie for each other. But there are others who will dwell on the suffering and hopelessness Maggie's rejection of Philip at the last involved; and will perhaps feel, though they will scarcely argue, that her renunciation and persistency did violent wrong to the inextinguishable affection of both, for the sake of a word given to another, that ought never to have been spoken. The secret conclusion may then be, that the sacrifice, which was productive of such utter misery, and brought a crowd of confusions and woes in its train, was arbitrary and self-willed, and a greater evil, in the circumstances, than to accept the sway of the passion which ordinary moral judgments, unaccommodated to this perplexed special case, would pronounce degrading if not criminal. And so, "the great problem of the shifting relation of passion and duty," which the author declares to be "not clear to any one capable of apprehending it"—words that we strongly protest against, in any sense that will be commonly attached to them,—that problem may be obscured and darkened to minds that are led by strong instinct rather than by rational and moral illumination. Far be it from us to fix on the author a desire to plead for passion's freedom from general moral rules; when the story so beautifully and touchingly depicts the flowing of the wave of loving penitence over Maggie's nature,—her waiting and her praying for light and strength,—the establishment, under a forcible return of the old temptation, of her faithfulness and resolve,—and the awakening within her, when she bent submissively to the cross laid on her, of "an inspiration strong enough to conquer agony, to conquer love." The impression made may be a mixed one; and some may pause in a false moral, one that springs up short of the ultimate solution of the problem: but let the closing scenes grow into the heart of the reader, and the falsehood will fall off from the truth, as quicksilver slips from the gold which it has assisted to purify.

We can scarcely give a word to the other characters of the story. Tom Trulliver is vividly contrasted with his sister Maggie,—a good-hearted, common-place, upright young man; whose narrow egoism often makes his kindness hard and hollow, and his very rectitude cruel injustice. Mr. and Mrs. Trulliver are very cleverly

sketched, and thoroughly living and individual. Mrs. Trulliver's sisters, well-married and well-to-do, are drawn with a free and vigorous hand, guided by a keen eye for peculiarities in character. But they are too much an imitation of Mrs. Poyser and 'Lisbeth Bede with variations; and there is a touch of extravagance in the portraiture, which one would weary of, were it not for the ridiculous truthfulness to what we all have seen, with which the sisters—born Dodsons—though differing from and disliking each other, agree in their belief and sense of the supreme importance of that dignified abstraction—their "own family;" and in their adhesion to their "own kin," and reverence for whatever "way" or custom the family has been distinguished by. Stephen Guest is a very ordinary and uninteresting handsome fellow; and ought not to have been able to appropriate to himself as he did, the whole of the nature of a girl such as Maggie. Philip Wakem is well-conceived, and is noble; but is of importance to the story only so far as he supplies the lover in whose relation to herself Maggie finds the net that winds and tangles about her feet. Yet he is the most living and personal man of the story,—Tom not excepted.

We have praised this book sincerely, as a novel with which we have few to compare, of its own school: and if we have intimated something of dissatisfaction, it is because the materials as a whole, are less interesting, and the art displayed is less perfect, than in the author's last work

Twelve Years in China: the People, the Rebels, and the Mandarins. By a BRITISH RESIDENT. Edinburgh: T. Constable and Co.

ONE might readily think that works on China had been numerous enough of late years, for it to be impossible to present a new picture of the country and its affairs. Not so: whatever may have been our gains from admirable Mr. Fortune, from the intensely Sinologised Mr. Meadows, from the brilliant Mr. Cooke, to say nothing of works from missionaries, not less informing or less reliable than their more celebrated rivals; there is yet a new point of view and a new light for the contemplation of the Chinese as they are. Here is a book that has entire independence and considerable novelty in its representations. The author, Mr. John Scarth, is a member of the mercantile community, and sees things for himself, and forms his own opinions about them. Twelve years' residence in China is itself a high and unusual qualification for writing on its inhabitants and affairs: but Mr. Scarth has had the advantage of close observation of the daily life of the people, during journeys made into the interior, and especially through the silk districts. He finds recent events in China assume a very different form, in the light of this experience, from that which they wear to our Government officials. Mr. Scarth is opposed in his views of British policy in China to Lord Elgin and Mr. Oliphant; and holding the present to be a critical period, and in hope that war may be averted, he has felt it to be his duty to "cast these notes on the current of public opinion." The intelligence and good spirit displayed throughout the work command confidence in Mr. Scarth's judgments; and, while his book is so interesting, as mere picture, that it may well be popular, it is, also, so solid and serious in its information and suggestion, as to the Insurrection in China, the relation of British influence to the maintenance of the Tartar dynasty, and the possibilities of war on an extended scale, that it is to be hoped its voice will be heard, and its testimony carefully pondered, by those who may have power to make it serviceable to the shaping of our future course towards China.

The more general matter of the book is, perhaps, suited better than such as has political bearings, to these particular columns of our journal: and we shall take at once a few paragraphs from its narrative of personal adventure. Mr. Scarth has set out in native costume, with thorough-bred pig-tail, and with tea-stone spectacles, from Shanghai, and has entered the province of Che-Kiang; where he forms some notion of

TEMPLES, PRIESTS, AND WOMEN.

"The temple at Theen-Tung shows no signs of the religion being very popular: it is fast going to decay. Its fine avenues and gilded josses alike bear witness to the fast-coming ruin. The priests mumble through their chants in a dreary, negligent manner, and go faster to the beating of the wooden fish, the signal for dinner, than to the gong and drum, the sounds for prayer. The main temple is very large—the Triune Bhuddah rising; perhaps forty or fifty feet from the floor. Numerous sparrows perch unceremoniously upon the idols, and plume themselves on the sacred nose of the great Foh, or build their nests in the ears of the God of War. Whether it was with a wish to get rid of these little pests, or to see the effect of foreign fire-arms, I know not; but the priests pointed out to a pert little "sprug," perched on the shoulder of one of the chief josses, for one of the foreigners to have a shot at it. Whatever his motive was, it said very little for his idea of the sanctity of the building or its monstrous images.

"It is melancholy to see some of the old women that come to the temple on petty pilgrimages, rattling away

at a box of bits of wood to get a lucky piece for their satisfaction,—the priests being able to interpret it in any way they like, probably according to the fee paid. It is rare, very rare, to see China-men worshipping the idols, except on grand occasions: the women seem to be the chief frequenters of temples. The wives of mandarins are prohibited from going to the joss-houses, it is said; but from the number of elegantly dressed ladies that visit particular temples shortly after the New Year, there seems to be some doubt upon this subject. I do not pretend to offer an opinion on the point. I may state, however, that when at Theen-Tung, a most beautiful and splendidly dressed lady, with a considerable retinue, arrived. We met her again at another large temple some distance off, and when we were at the uppermost storey of the high pagoda at Ningpo, some days afterwards, were astonished to see her make her appearance. She also seemed to be surprised at the coincidence, and was at a loss how to meet us, dropt all her reserve, and burst into an immoderate fit of laughter. Her features were quite Spanish; fine eyes beaming brightly in her handsome countenance, and no Chinese characteristic in her face. We endeavoured to discover who she was, but only got some vague story that she was going the round of all the great temples chin-chining joss for a male child."

In more than one place Mr. Scarth leads us to think much more favourably of Chinese female beauty than we have been accustomed to: but it is to the existence of two races, that we owe the following

CONTRASTS OF BEAUTY!

"The women were by no means bashful, and their fine sturdy figures, prettily decked hair, and peculiar costume, made capital subjects. They do most of the carrying work, and, considering their occupation, are remarkably neat and clean in appearance. The folds in their little white aprons were carefully puckered out, and the fine healthy bloom on the faces of some reminded me of the girls about a farm-stead in the Lowlands. Don't imagine that all deserved such praises! Some were poor miserable wretches, earning a scanty subsistence by cutting grass on the hill-sides; and any of you who have depicted to yourself the women of China toddling about upon small feet, should see the firm, free step displayed by the female peasantry of Foochow, as they walk off with a burden of more than 100 pounds weight, making nothing of it. A woman will carry two chests of tea at a time from the city to the river, each chest weighing about 100 pounds.

"In Canton, it is a rarity to see a woman with small feet compared to those who have their natural 'understandings,' and as for the small feet at Shanghai and Ningpo, as well as through all the country districts that I have been in, they are swaddled up in a host of dirty cloths until they appear larger than they would naturally have been. Few things look so disagreeable; the wrappings have an old look about them, as if the women always slept in them, which indeed they probably do. Chinese ladies by right, ladies by courtesy, and courtesan ladies, have the real small feet, and wear the diminutive shoes that are wondered at in England. But in Foochow, there are a good many Tartars; they have a quarter to themselves, and their wives have all natural-sized feet. These women dress differently from the Chinese. The hair is all drawn back from the forehead and fastened in a knot behind, with a sort of skewer stuck through it, at the end of which is a flower; their robe is a long affair, something like a man's dressing-gown; they wear unmentionables, which appear to be tucked into wide, loose stockings, generally very dirty, and their shoes are thick flat-soled affairs, often worn down at the heels. I know nothing of their gala dresses; but the above answers to the description of all I saw, and I frequently went into the Tartar quarter to get sketches of them. There was a peculiarity in their faces which was very striking; they all had square, sensual-looking jaws—an appearance which I did not remark in the Tartar men."

"Swatow is, strange to say, a new place in China"—having been raised by trade with foreigners, in a few years, from a fishing village to a thriving town. There are hints in the facts mentioned, which both teach and promise something as to future Chinese development. But here, again, the people interest us most; and we are looking over

THE AUDIENCE AT "A PLAY."

"But by far the best of the whole affair were the people and their varied costumes; the men,—fine sturdy fellows most of them, in turbans of dark-blue nankeen; and the women in most picturesque dresses, all of the gayest colours. The head-dresses are charming, especially those of the young girls—many very pretty—their hair plaited in a long tail, which is wound round and round the head, terminating in a tassel behind. A broad black silk or velvet band encircles the upper part of the forehead, and has generally a gaudy jewel in the front. A fine flower jauntily placed at one side of the head, completes one of the prettiest head-dresses imaginable. Others have the hair curiously worked up into shape. Handsome gold ornaments, and flowers tastefully placed about them, give the head of a pretty girl a fine appearance. Sketches give but a faint idea of the effect which I would wish to describe, but the accompanying may aid the description. The old women that have small feet have strange ways of dressing them. Some cover them with a sort of white flounces at the ankle; others wrap the whole ankle and calf tightly with red bandages, making them walk as if they were going on razed bed-posts. But the variety of fashions would be tedious to enumerate. The dress of the women and children show great ingenuity, and yield a whole budget of sketches. The ladies are rather bashful and difficult to be jotted down, but the children are delighted to have their pictures taken."

Mr. Scarth's sketches are very interesting; and correct many of the stereotyped popular notions of the Chinese which England has long faithfully derived from "willow-pattern" plates, and other authoritative sources. Some of them are here given in colours, others on wood, with great spirit, and immensely to the advantage of a realising knowledge of the natives of this anomalous land.

Several chapters of the book deal with questions on which the author quotes from Williams's *Middle Kingdom*, and other writers;—and they are valuable, but not within the scope of this notice, which confines itself to new observations and pictures. Of the character of the Chinese, Mr. Scarth tells us from his own large experience, precisely what other impartial witnesses have affirmed against the interested misrepresentations that have gained large currency here. He says they are generally trustworthy and honest as agents and servants, models of propriety and quietness in their towns and daily avocations, and capable of energetic activity and enterprise when aroused by example and benefit from the trance that has befallen the race for centuries. But the Mandarins are described as having a universal character in which is no redeeming feature:—they are false, deceitful, tyrannous, and cruel. The rulers of the people are the people's curse. Through them China has come to be contemptible and hateful to Europeans. British plenipotentiaries and other officials have to do chiefly with the mandarin-class; and consequently form, in our author's judgment, very inadequate views of political and social affairs in China. Besides, they are dependent on their interpreters, and these again on their native teachers, who are often spies of the mandarins: while one, at least, of our Government interpreters, and an adviser of Lord Elgin, held at one time an appointment from the Chinese Government. To causes such as these may be attributed, says Mr. Scarth, much of that misapprehension of the Insurrection led by Hung-siu-tsuen, which prevails in all the documents and has influenced all the acts of our representatives in China. He gives a full and minute account of this movement, one not new to those who have had faith in the testimonies reaching us through our missionaries; but one very different from that infatuated predetermination of our British officials, which can find in the rebel movement neither a genuine Christian element that should be recognised, nor a popular effort to throw off the oppression of an alien dynasty. Let Mr. Scarth's chapters on this matter be read by every one: we fully believe that they will assist to work the twofold conviction in the public mind, first that Sir John Bowring's policy, founded on the belief that British commerce with China is secured by the maintenance of the present dynasty, is a most mistaken and injurious one; and secondly, that Lord Elgin's late mission, vaunted as its triumphs have been, neither has borne, nor is likely to bear, any useful permanent result.

BIRTHS.

LEGGE.—Feb. 29, at the Mission House, Victoria, Hong Kong, the wife of the Rev. James Legge, D.D., of a daughter.
JONES.—April 26, at 23, Brunswick Crescent, Cold Harbour-lane, Camberwell, Mrs. Charles Theodore Jones, of a daughter.
LOCKHART.—April 27, at Blackheath, the wife of Mr. Lockhart, medical missionary, Shanghai, China, of a son.
SOPER.—May 1, at Ludlow, the wife of the Rev. Richard G. Soper, B.A., of a son.

MARRIAGES.

FENTON-STANLEY.—April 16, at the Methodist New Connexion Chapel, Durham, by the Rev. T. D. Crothers, of York, Mr. Thos. Fenton, of the firm of S. Fenton and Sons, Sheffield, to Lucy, only daughter of Mr. T. Stanley, supervisor of inland revenue, Durham.
CROSSBY-HAMER.—April 18, in the Congregational Church, Farnworth, near Bolton, Lancashire, by the Rev. G. D. Macgregor, Mr. David Crosby, cotton spinner, of Farnworth, to Sarah, eldest daughter of W. Hamer, Esq., cotton spinner, of Bank View Villa, Little Lever.
JEFFRIES-TOMBS.—April 21, at the Independent Chapel, Moreton-in-Marsh, by the Rev. Thomas Young, Elizabeth, second daughter of Mr. Thomas Tombs, to Mr. Thomas Jeffries, both of Moreton.
GERVIS-POLLARD.—April 26, at Taunton, by the Rev. Archibald McMillan, Henry Gervis, Esq., of 12, St. Thomas's-street, Southwark, eldest son of Frederick Shorland Gervis, Esq., of Tiverton, Devon, to Phoebe Louisa, third daughter of Samuel Knight Pollard, Esq., of Taunton.
HUGHES-BURLE.—April 26, at the Independent Chapel, Maldon, Essex, by the father of the bride, the Rev. John Gwynne Hughes, minister of the chapel, to Myra Ann Death, the younger daughter of the Rev. Robert Burle.
HALL-WOOD.—May 1, at Camden-road Chapel, by the Rev. Newman Hall, LL.B., brother of the bridegroom, Henry Warren, youngest son of J. Vine Hall, Esq., of London, to Susan Sutcliffe, youngest daughter of the late Samuel Wood, jun., Esq., of Orrell House, Sowerby-bridge, Yorkshire.
COLBORNE-LIDSTONE.—May 3, at Ebenezer Chapel, Kingsbridge, Devon, by the Rev. Frederic E. Anthony, M.A., Classical Tutor of the Western College, Plymouth, the Rev. Philip Colborne, minister of the Chapel in the Field, Norwich, to Prothesa Fisher, eldest daughter of John Lidstone, Esq., of Kingsbridge.
MERRY-LADBURY.—May 8, at the Independent Chapel, Heston, by the Rev. E. S. Hearn, minister of the place, Mr. William Merry, chemist, to Miss E. H. Ludbury, second daughter of F. Ludbury, Esq., all of Heston.

DEATHS.

BURCHAM.—May 1, at Harlow, beloved and lamented by the whole of her family circle, Ann Finch, relict of the late Richard Burcham, Esq., Matching Green, Essex, aged seventy-eight years, full of Christian piety and good works.
WHITTY.—Feb. 21, at Melbourne, E. A. Whitty, Esq., lately of the London press, and author of the "Stranger in Parliament," "The Bohemians," and other works. Mr. Whitty had only recently arrived in Victoria in the hope of better health from the change of climate.
BEST.—April 24, at Sherborne, Dorset, Martha, widow of the late Mr. W. B. Best, formerly of Poole, aged eighty-five years.
MOORE.—April 25, at his residence, Catana-villa, St. Leonards-on-Sea, John Moore, Esq.
M'LAREN.—April 28, at Spring Bank, Dunoon, N.B., aged sixty-three, Elizabeth, wife of John M'Laren, Esq., late Deputy Surveyor-General, South Australia, and Captain in the Dunoon Rifle Volunteer Corps.

ETHERIDGE.—May 3, at Alpha Cottage, near Cheltenham, Clarissa Randal, wife of Mr. Samuel Etheridge, and beloved mother of the Rev. B. Copeland Etheridge, of Ramsgate. "At evening time it was light."
HARRISON.—May 4, at Fordingbridge, Hants, Mr. Thomas Harrison, formerly of Wolverhampton, aged seventy-six.
COTTON.—May 4, at Lowndes-square, General Sir W. Cotton, G.C.B., Colonel of the 32nd Regt.
HUTT.—May 5, at Albemarle-street, Mary, Countess of Strathmore, wife of the Right Hon. W. Hunt, M.P.
PITMAN.—May 5, at Grove-place, Hackney, Mr. John Pitman, for thirty years honorary secretary to the Christian Instruction Society, in the sixty-sixth year of his age.

Money Market and Commercial Intelligence.

CITY, Tuesday Evening.

The funds on Monday sustained a fall of $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ per cent., which was attributed principally to a few speculative sales, combined with the preparations for the monthly settlement, fixed for Wednesday. The decline on the Paris Bourse contributed to the absence of recovery at the close. This morning English securities opened with a heavy appearance, and the funds were at the depreciated quotations current yesterday afternoon. Various unfavourable reports have been circulated, which have produced an adverse effect, owing to the progress of the settlement. Consols are $95\frac{1}{2}$ $95\frac{1}{2}$ for money, and $95\frac{1}{2}$ for June. The New 3 per Cents, and the Reduced are $93\frac{1}{2}$ $93\frac{1}{2}$. Exchequer Bills, 4s. to 7s. premium. India Stock, 219; ditto New Loan, 106 $\frac{1}{2}$ $106\frac{1}{2}$; and the Debentures, $96\frac{1}{2}$. Bank Stock is 226 $227\frac{1}{2}$.

Although the demand for money has increased, and the rates are a shade firmer, it is thought that the Bank directors may reduce the minimum on Thursday next to $\frac{1}{4}$ per cent., because a large addition has been made to the bullion, and it is believed that an important diminution has taken place in the securities. At present the quotations for first-class bills range as low as $\frac{1}{4}$ per cent., and in exceptional cases they are negotiated on rather easier terms.

In Foreign securities the transactions have been moderately active, and prices are steady. The Ocean Marine Insurance Company's shares are $2\frac{1}{2}$ $2\frac{1}{2}$ premium; and the Universal ditto, $\frac{1}{2}$ $\frac{1}{2}$ premium. The London and South African Bank shares are $\frac{1}{2}$ to 1 premium.

The dealings in the Railway Share Market have been very limited, and prices have shown less firmness. Great Northern have declined to 116. Lancashire and Yorkshire to 105 $\frac{1}{2}$ $105\frac{1}{2}$. London and Brighton to 114 $\frac{1}{2}$. North Western to 101 $\frac{1}{2}$ $102\frac{1}{2}$. Manchester, Sheffield, and Lincoln to 42 $\frac{1}{2}$ $42\frac{1}{2}$; and Midlands to 117 $\frac{1}{2}$. North Eastern, Berwicks, were steady at 96 $\frac{1}{2}$ $96\frac{1}{2}$; and South Easterns at 87 $\frac{1}{2}$ $87\frac{1}{2}$. In the Foreign and Colonial Markets, only a limited business has been transacted, and prices remain unaltered. Great Luxembourg are quoted 7. Pernambuco 11 $\frac{1}{2}$. Bahia and San Francisco, 63 $\frac{1}{2}$ $63\frac{1}{2}$, and Buenos Ayres and San Fernando, 5 $\frac{1}{2}$. East Indian are 102 $\frac{1}{2}$ $102\frac{1}{2}$. Great Indian Peninsula, 100 $\frac{1}{2}$. Grand Trunk of Canada, 33 $\frac{1}{2}$ $33\frac{1}{2}$; and Great Western of Canada, 13 $\frac{1}{2}$ $13\frac{1}{2}$.

Joint Stock Bank and miscellaneous shares are flat. The accounts from Aberdeen state that the defalcations of John Blaikie, the advocate who has lately absconded, will be about 200,000. He is stated to have obtained advances from the Union Bank of Scotland to the extent of 60,000, or 80,000. Blaikie is understood to be in Sweden.

THE POSTMASTER has decided that the Society of Arts' Prize Writing-case, for which they awarded the prize of twenty guineas and their silver medal to Parkins and Gatto, can be sent through the post for 4s., so that this extremely useful and durable waterproof case, fitted with writing paper, envelopes, blotting-book, metal pen-case, with reserve of pens, &c., &c., can be sent free through the post to any part of the kingdom, on sending twenty-eight stamps to Parkins and Gatto, 24 and 25, Oxford-street, London. It forms a most appropriate present. Selling price at their Stationery Warehouse, 2s. each. Their Sample Packet of Writing Paper and Envelopes can be had free by post for four stamps.

PARKINS and GATTO make no charge for plain stamping writing-paper and envelopes, and undertake to pay the carriage to any part of England, on orders over twenty shillings. Twenty thousand envelopes of any size or quality at a minute's notice. Office stationery and household papers. Institutions, colleges, and schools supplied. Price list post free. A saving of full 6s. in the pound.—Parkins and Gatto, paper and envelope makers, 24 and 25, Oxford-street.

Mr. J. W. Benson, of 33 and 34, Ludgate-hill, has just published a new illustrated pamphlet on watches (free by post for two stamps). It should be read by all who are about buying a watch, as it contains prices and important information as to what watch to buy! where to buy it! and how to use it!

[ADVERTISEMENT.]—HOLLOWAY'S PILLS.—Headaches, biliousness, loss of appetite, and lowness of spirits, so frequently prevalent in the spring, are all removed by a course of these purifying Pills, which act so mildly, yet so energetically, on the different organs of the body, that they never fail in removing the disagreeable symptoms of indigestion above enumerated. No noxious substance enters into the composition of these Pills; hence, everybody may take them with safety. They act mildly on the bowels, strengthen the stomach, and brace the nerves. They induce a healthy action in the liver, and invigorate the whole system. In enfeebled, debilitated, and hardly used constitutions they at once effect a marvellous improvement, which day by day gains ground as the Pills are taken.

PREMATURE GREYNESS, weak or falling Hair, Neuralgia, Nervous Headache, Rheumatism, Stiff Joints, &c., are remedied with ease and certainty by Herring's Patent Magnetic Brushes and Combs. Their use is an absolute luxury. His newly invented Tangle Brushes for Cloth, Velvet, &c., are admirable; they not only cleanse, but preserve the fabric in a remarkable manner. The manufactory is 22, Basinghall-street. The Public are cautioned against Counterfeits.

"The high repute which Mr. Benson has obtained for the qualities of his manufacture stands second to none."—Morning Advertiser. Benson's Lady's Gold Watch, at 5 to 30 guineas.—"Exquisite artistic feeling in ornamentation, and perfection of mechanism in structure."—Morning Post. Benson's Gentleman's Gold Watch, at 6 to 50 guineas.—"All that can be desired in finish, taste, and design."—Globe. Benson's Silver Lever Watches, at 4 to 20 guineas.—"Leave nothing to be desired but the money to buy them with."—Standard. Benson's Silver Horizontal Watch, at 2 to 3 guineas.—"A good watch without paying an exorbitant price."—Daily Telegraph. Each watch warranted, and sent free to any part of England, Scotland, Ireland, or Wales, on receipt of a remittance addressed to James W. Benson, at the manufactory, 33 and 34, Ludgate-hill, London. Established 1749.

The Gazette.

BANK OF ENGLAND.

(From Friday's Gazette.)

An Account pursuant to the Act 7th and 8th of Vic., cap. 32, for the week ending on Wednesday, May 2, 1860.

ISSUE DEPARTMENT.	
Notes issued	£28,593,585
Government Debt	£11,015,100
Other Securities	3,439,000
Gold Bullion	14,118,585
Silver Bullion	—
	£28,593,585

BANKING DEPARTMENT.	
Proprietors' Capital	£14,553,000
Reserve	3,224,701
Public Deposits	6,871,698
Other Deposits	13,433,233
Seven Day and other Bills	678,208
	£38,760,810
May 3, 1860.	W. MILLER, Deputy Cashier.

Friday, May 4, 1860.

BANKRUPTS.

OAKSHOTT, B., Portsea, brewer, May 17, June 14.
DUGGAN, C. S., Bridge-house, Newington-causway, Surrey, wholesale stationer, May 17, June 14.
TRENTER, H., Ipswich, butcher, May 18, June 15.
ABRAHAM, B., Taunton, jeweller, May 17, June 13.
HANSON, J., Halifax, innkeeper, May 21, June 18.
KURZ, B., Rathbone-place, Oxford-street, jeweller, May 14, June 8.
BEDFORD, W., Middlesex-street, Whitechapel, brewer, May 14, June 18.
HARRIS, W., Stoke Prior, Worcestershire, cattle dealer, May 17, June 11.
STANLEY, J., Walsall, Staffordshire, draper, May 14, June 4.
MOORE, T., Morland, Westmoreland, grocer, May 10, June 14.

Tuesday, May 8, 1860.

BANKRUPTS.

JONES, E., late of Fenchurch-street, City, and Forlen Cottage, East Dulwich, and now of Woodbine Villas, Bridge-road West, Battersea, hosier, May 18, June 15.
SMITH, J., Fareham, Hants, grocer and provision merchant, May 18, June 13.
BEALE, J. S., Paddington-green, surgeon and apothecary, May 22, June 19.
WILSON, J., formerly of Sunderland, Durham, ship-owner, May 16, June 13.
PALMER, J., Gloucester, ironmonger, May 22, June 19.
DRAKE, G., Eversholt-street, Camden Town, jeweller and dealer in watches and clocks, May 18, June 13.
MILLEN, F., Poland-street, Oxford-street, lead and glass merchant, May 22, June 19.
ALLEN, V., Newport, Monmouthshire, draper, May 22, June 19.
BELL, J., Liverpool, shipwright and boat builder, May 18, June 11.
NEWNS, J., and WILKINSON, J. H., Wolverhampton, drapers, May 21, June 14.
MILES, T., Ashton-under-Lyne, chemist and druggist, May 24, June 14.

Markets.

CORN EXCHANGE, LONDON, Monday, May 7.

The supply of wheat from the neighbouring counties was small this morning, and, in some cases, sold at 1s per quarter less than on Monday last. Holders of foreign were not disposed to take lower rates, and little was done. Flour dull, but not offered lower. Barley firm, and quite as dear. Beans and peas unaltered. The arrivals of oats being rather large this morning, the trade ruled firm, at full prices. Linseed and cakes fully as dear. In tallow very little doing. White clover-reed dull, but for red there was more inquiry, at higher rates.

BRITISH.		FOREIGN.	
Wheat		Wheat	
Essex and Kent, Red 42 to 50		Dantzic	54 to 60
Ditto White	41 58	Konigsberg, Red	50 58
Line, Norfolk, and		Pomeranian, Red	52 56
Yorkshire Red	—	Rostock	52 56
Scotch	—	Danish and Holstein	48 54
Rye	32 34	East Friesland	48 52
Barley, malted	40 45	Petersburg	40 52
Distilling	28 34	Riga and Archangel	—
Malt (pale)	64 68	Polish Odessa	48 50
Beans, mazagan	36 44	Marianopol	48 52
Ticks	—	Taganrog	—
Harrow	—	Egyptian	36 38
Pigeon	—	American (U.S.)	48 50
Peas, White	40 42	Barley, Pomeranian	32 40
Grey	38 40	Konigsberg	—
Maple	38 40	Danish	32 36
Boilers	—	East Friesland	21 38
Tares (English new)	36 50	Egyptian	27 30
Foreign	—	Odessa	27 29
Oats (English new)	21 26	Beans	—
Flour, town made, per		Horse	37 40
Sack of 280 lbs	41 46	Pigeon	40 42
Linseed, English	—	Egyptian	34 36
Baltic	50 53	Peas, White	40 43
Black Sea	50 53	Oats	—
Hempseed	30 34	Dutch	29 26
Canaryseed	50 54	Jahde	29 25
Cloverseed, per cwt. of		Danish	18 23
112lbs. English	32 34	Danish, Yellow feed	22 24
German	—	Swedish	23 26
French	—	Petersburg	20 24
American	—	Flour, per bar. of 190lbs. —	
Linseed Cakes, 12 10s to 13 10s		New York	23 30
Rape Cakes, 4 10s to 5 10s per ton		Spanish, per sack	—
Rapeseed, 25 0s to 26 0s per last		Carrawayseed, per cwt. 30 35	

BREAD.—The prices of wheaten bread, in the metropolis, are from 7d to 8d; household ditto, 5 1 to 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.

BUTCHERS' MEAT, ISLINGTON, Monday, May 7.

The total imports of foreign stock into London last week amounted to 4,229 head. The show of foreign stocks here to-day was only moderate. The whole changed hands, at full quotations. From our own grazing districts, the receipts of beasts fresh up this morning were only moderate, and the general quality of the supply was by no means first-rate. Prime Scots, crosses, &c., sold steadily, at an advance in the quotations of 2d per stone—the general top figure being 3s 10d; other was, the best trade was far from active, on former terms. From Norfolk, Suffolk, Essex, and Cambridgeshire, we received 2,500 Scots, crosses, and shorthorns; from other parts of England, 350 of various breeds; and from Scotland, 46 Scots and crosses. We were reasonably well supplied with sheep, in, for the most part, middling condition. The mutton trade ruled steady, at fully last Monday's prices, some prime old Downs out of the wool having realised 5s 2d per stone. We have now ceased to make any distinction between the value of the woolled and shorn sheep. There was a fair demand for lambs, at full currencies, viz., from 5s 6d to 7s 2d per stone.

Prime calves sold briskly, at very full prices; but inferior calves met a dull inquiry, on former terms. The pork trade was heavy, and prices ruled a shade lower.

Per 8lbs. to sink the Offal.							
	s.	d.		s.	d.	s.	d.
Inf. coarse beasts	3	4	to 3 6	Pr. coarse woolled	4	8	to 4 10
Second quality	3	8	4 0	Prime Southdown	5	0	5 2
Prime large oxen	4	2	4 0	Lge. coarse calves	4	6	5 2
Prime Scots, &c.	4	2	4 10	Prime small	5	4	5 6
Coarse inf. sheep	3	4	3 8	Large hogs	3	6	3 10
Second quality	3	10	4 6	Neat sm. porkers	4	2	4 8
Lamb 5s 6d to 7s 2d.							
Suckling calves 19s to 22s. Quarter-old to 20s. 2s to 29s each.							

Suckling calves, 19s to 22s. Quarter-old store pigs, 23s to 29s each.

NEWGATE and LEADENHALL, Monday, May 7.

Since our last report, full average time-of-year supplies of both town and country-killed meat have been on offer. The trade generally is heavy, on lower terms.

Per 8lbs by the carcass.							
	s.	d.	s.	d.		s.	d.
Inferior beef	2	10	to	3	0	Small pork	4 6 to 4 10
Middling ditto	3	2	3	6	Inf. mutton	3 8	4 0
Prime large do.	3	8	3	10	Middling ditto	4 2	4 4
Do. small do.	4	0	4	2	Prime ditto	4 6	4 8
Large pork.	3	10	4	4	Veal	4 4	5 0
Lamb, 5s 6d to 6s 4d.							

PRODUCE MARKET, MINING-LANE, May 8.

TEA.—The market continues very dull, and prices are unaltered.

SUGAR.—The inquiries for the better descriptions have been more active, but the business transacted has been only for immediate requirements, at about former rates. In the refined market, prices tend upwards, owing to the small quantity of dried goods on offer.

COFFEE.—There has been a steady inquiry for plantation Ceylon, and a fair business has been transacted in native, at full prices.

RICE.—The dealings have been very limited; prices, however, are well sustained.

SALTPETRE.—There have been active inquiries, and a large business transacted at about previous values.

COVENT GARDEN, Saturday, May 5.—The supply of vegetables is somewhat improving, and prices are becoming more moderate. Pine-apples are as dear as they were last week. Grapes are a trifle cheaper. Good apples and pears are scarce. The former still consist of Golden Knob, Bess Pool, and Wyken Pippin, and the latter of No Plus Meuris, Beurre Rance, and Easter Beurre. Oranges are both plentiful and cheap. Strawberries are coming in in tolerable abundance. Good cobs are realising 1s per lb, and Spanish hazel nuts for planting 16s per bushel. Rhubarb is furnished in exceedingly large quantities. Parsley is now very much cheaper. Green peas, and even broad beans of foreign growth, may be obtained at exceedingly high prices. Potatoes realise 4s 6d per bushel. A few new frame ones may be had at from 6d to 1s per lb. Mushrooms can still be had in small quantities. Cucumbers are dear. Cut flowers chiefly consist of Orchids, Gardenias, Violets, Mignonette, Camellias, Azaleas, Heaths, Primulas, Geraniums, and Roses.

PROVISIONS, Monday, May 7.—The arrivals last week from Ireland were 367 firkins of butter, and 2,736 bales of bacon, and from foreign ports 16,112 casks of butter, and 944 bales of bacon. The arrivals of new Irish butter are still limited, and confined to third, fourth, and fifth Corks, which have gone off slowly at 110s, 100s, and 78s; but the business is quite of a retail character, all parties expecting lower prices very shortly. Foreign in large supply, and best Dutch declined to 110s to 108s. The bacon market ruled quiet, and the amount of business transacted during the week was limited. A few parcels best Waterford sold at 69s to 70s per cwt on board.

SEEDS, Monday, May 7.—During the past week the demand for seeds has been small; sales uncertain. Red seed is without change, but fine qualities for holding over are more inquired for. White Clover is quite neglected, and offered at 10s to 12s reduction without including buyers. Trefoils are without change in value. Canaryseed is without change.

COALS, Monday, May 7.—A general reduction on all coals sold to-day. Hetton's, 18s 3d; Stewarts, 18s 3d; Haswells, 18s 3d; Lambton's, 18s 3d; Kellie, 18s 3d; Russell Hetton's, 17s 3d; S. Durham, 17s; Hartley's, 15s 6d; Hetton Lyons, 17s; Hartley's, 15s 9d; Wylam's, 15s 6d.—Fresh arrivals, 156; left from last day, 28.—Total, 184.

POTATOES, BOROUGH and SPITALFIELDS, Monday, May 7.—Since our last report, only limited supplies of potatoes have come to hand coastwise and by railway. Good coarse qualities sell briskly at extreme rates, and other kinds are firm in price.

WOOL, Saturday, May 5.—Our market continues in about the same state as it has been in for many weeks, the demand being only for immediate requirements, which are supplied at the current rates. No one is disposed to speculate either in buying or in selling, as the present prices and prospects do not hold out much advantage to any other than the prudent course of a hand-to-mouth system of business.

TALLOW, Monday, May 7.—Since our last report, very little business has been passing in our market, and prices have had a drooping tendency. Advice from St. Petersburg state that the supply of tallow this season will be 135,000 casks. To-day, P.Y.C. on the spot is selling at 51s 3d, and for the last three months 51s per cwt.; rough fat is 2s 11d. per 8lbs.

OILS, Monday, May 7.—Rape oil is in improved request, and prices are the turn higher. Cocoa-nut and palm move off slowly on former terms. In the value of linseed oil no notable change has taken place. Olive is inactive at 61l for Gallipoli. All other oils are inactive, but not cheaper. Turpentine rules stationary.

HOPS, Monday, May 7.—Our market during the past week has shown more activity. The demand particularly for fine samples, has been good, and, in some few sales of fine Weald and Sussex, extreme value has been realised. Inferior sorts have received more attention, and our currency has generally become firmer.

Advertisements.

CONGREGATIONAL UNION OF ENGLAND AND WALES.

The ADJOURNED MEETING will be held in the POULTRY CHAPEL on FRIDAY MORNING next. The chair will be taken at half-past nine.

A paper on the Results of the Revival in Ireland will be read by the Rev. Dr. Urwick, of Dublin, and the rest of the session will be given to religious conversation and prayer.

G. SMITH, Secretary.

May 8, 1860. R. ASHTON, Secretaries.

LEAP-YEAR.—PIESSE and LUBIN'S new BOUQUET for the Season 1860.

"In leap-year they have power to choose."

The men no charter to refuse.—Chaucer.

This and a thousand others for choice, in bottles 2s. 6d. each

2, NEW BOND-STREET, W. [Copyright.]

AN ACT of CHARITY.—A Gentleman having been cured of nervous debility, lassitude, indigestion, dislike to society, impediments to marriage, in a short time, after years of mental anguish and misery, will forward free to any address the means by which he was perfectly restored to health on receipt of a stamped directed envelope.

Address, Thomas Howard, Esq., Clive House, near Birmingham.

RIMMEL'S LOTION for the SKIN is prepared of two sorts—No. 1, preservative, and No. 2, curative. No 1 beautifies the complexion. No 2 removes pimples, eruptions, tan, freckles, sunburns, and all cutaneous imperfections. Price per bottle, 1 pint, 2s. 9d.; 1/2 pint, 4s. 6d.; 1/4 pint, 8s. 6d. Sold by all perfumers and chemists, E. Rimmel, 96, Strand; 24, Cornhill; and Crystal Palace.

BEST SETS OF TEETH.—EDWARD MILES and SON, Dentists, invite attention to the best and newest work in SETS OF TEETH of every description; also their new patented India-rubber Gums, fixed without pain or extraction, with improvements, the result of thirty years' active practice. Printed instructions gratis. Toothache cured without extraction. Best stopping with gold, &c. No. 15, LIVERPOOL-STREET, BISHOPSGATE CHURCH, CITY, E.C.

BY HER MAJESTY'S ROYAL LETTERS PATENT. **NEWLY-INVENTED APPLICATION of PREPARED INDIA-RUBBER** in the construction of Artificial Teeth, Gums, and Palates.

MR. EPHRAIM MOSELY, SURGEON-DENTIST, 9 LOWER GROSVENOR-STREET, GROSVENOR-SQUARE, SOLE INVENTOR AND PATENTEE.

A new, original, and invaluable invention, consisting in the adaptation, with the most absolute perfection and success, of **CHEMICALLY-PREPARED INDIA-RUBBER**, in lieu of the gold or bone frame. The extraordinary results of this application may be briefly noted in a few of their most prominent features:—

All sharp edges are avoided; no spring wires, or fastenings are required; a greatly-increased freedom of suction is supplied; a natural elasticity hitherto wholly unattainable; and a fit, perfected with the most unerring accuracy, are secured, while, from the softness and flexibility of the agents employed, the greatest support is given to the adjoining teeth when loose or rendered tender by the absorption of the gums.

The acids of the mouth exert no agency on the chemically-prepared India-rubber, and, as it is a non-conductor, fluids of any temperature may be retained in the mouth, all unpleasantness of smell and taste being at the same time wholly provided against by the peculiar nature of its preparation.

Teeth filled with gold, and Mr. Ephraim Mosely's Enamel Cement, the only stopping that will not become discoloured, particularly recommended for front teeth.

9, GROSVENOR-STREET (W.), LONDON; 14, GAY-STREET, BATH; and 10, ELDON-SQUARE, NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.

A BRITISH REMEDY FOR A BRITISH MALADY.

DR. TWEEDALE'S HOP PILLS (containing the quintessence of the finest hops) have proved to be the greatest discovery of the age, as a perfect annihilator of the monster indigestion. Their action on the human system is gradually and mildly to expel from it all undigested accumulations and impurities; and then, when taken freely, so to saturate it with the antiseptic and tonic properties peculiar to the hop plant, as to astonish the patient by his immunity from his old enemy.

Prepared by F. A. Richardson, Chemist, 8, Stamford-terrace, Church-street, Camberwell, and sold by all dealers in patent medicines. Price 1s. 11d. and 2s. 9d. per box. London Agents: Messrs. F. Newbery and Sons, 45, St. Paul's-churchyard; and Mr. J. Sanger, 153, Oxford-street.

LIVER COMPLAINTS, BILE, and INDIGESTION CURED WITHOUT MERCURY.

There are only TWO MEDICINES KNOWN which really act upon the Liver; one is Mercury in the form of Blue Pill or Calomel; the other is Dandelion. But if the Public knew the thousands of people whose constitutions have been broken down by Mercury, Calomel, or Blue Pill, they would be persuaded to take no other Aporient than

DR. KING'S DANDELION and QUININE LIVER PILLS,

which act gently and very efficaciously upon the liver, liberate bile, disperse wind, and strengthen the whole frame. They are prepared from the Prescription of a Physician of seventy years standing, and are not like a Quack Medicine by unskilful men. There is no fear of cold as with all other Bileous Pills. They are the best remedy for bile, indigestion, and torpid liver, wind, costiveness, piles, sickness, fainting, distension of the stomach, furred tongue, unpleasant taste of mouth, noises and giddiness in the head, fluttering of the heart, and nervous debility.

Sold in boxes at 1s. 11d., 2s. 9d., and 4s. 6d., for Dr. King, at 10, Hungerford-street, London.

Agents—Barclay, 96, Farringdon-street; Edwards, 67, St. Paul's-churchyard; Butler, 4, St. Paul's-churchyard; Sanger, 150, Oxford-street; Hannay, Oxford-street; and all Medicine Vendors.

RUPTURES.

BY HER MAJESTY'S ROYAL LETTERS PATENT.

WHITE'S MOC-MAIN PATENT LEVER TRUSS, requiring no steel spring round the body, is recommended for the following peculiarities and advantages:—1st. Facility of application; 2nd. Perfect freedom from liability to chafe or excoriate; 3rd. It may be worn with equal comfort in any position of the body, by night or day; 4th. It admits of every kind of exercise without the slightest inconvenience to the wearer, and is perfectly concealed from observation.

"We do not hesitate to give to this invention our unqualified approbation; and we strenuously advise the use of it to all those who stand in need of that protection, which they cannot so fully, nor with the same comfort, obtain from any other apparatus or truss as from that which we have the highest satisfaction in thus recommending."—Church and State Gazette.

Recommended by the following eminent Surgeons:—William Ferguson, Esq., F.R.S., Professor of Surgery in King's College, Surgeon to King's College Hospital, &c.; C. G. Guthrie, Esq., Surgeon to the Royal Westminster Ophthalmic Hospital; W. Bowman, Esq., F.R.S., Assistant-Surgeon to King's College Hospital; T. Callaway, Esq., Senior Assistant-Surgeon to Guy's Hospital; W. Coulson, Esq., F.R.S., Surgeon to the Magdalen Hospital; T. Blizard Curling, Esq., F.R.S., Surgeon to the London Hospital; W. J. Fisher, Esq., Surgeon-in-Chief to the Metropolitan Police Force; Aston Key, Esq., Surgeon to Prince Albert; Robert Liston, Esq., F.R.S.; James Luke, Esq., Surgeon to the London Truss Society; Erasmus Wilson, Esq., F.R.S.; and many others.

A Descriptive Circular may be had by post, and the Truss (which cannot fail to fit) can be forwarded by post, on sending the circumference of the body, two inches below the hips, to the Manufacturer.

Mr. WHITE, 228, PICCADILLY, LONDON.

Price of a Single Truss, 10s., 21s., 26s. 6d., and 31s. 6d.

Postage, 1s.

Price of a Double Truss, 31s. 6d., 42s., and 52s. 8d. Postage, 1s. 6d.

Price of an Umbilical Truss, 42s. and 52s. Postage, s. 10d.

Post-office Orders to be made payable to John White, Post Office, Piccadilly.

ELASTIC STOCKINGS, KNEE-CAPS &c.

The material of which these are made is recommended by the faculty as being peculiarly elastic and compressible, and the best invention for giving efficient and permanent support in all cases of WEAKNESS, and swelling of the LEGS, VARICOSE VEINS, SPRAINS, &c. It is porous, light in texture, and inexpensive, and is drawn on like an ordinary stocking. Price from 7s. 6d. to 16s. each. Postage 6d.

John White, Manufacturer 228, Piccadilly, London.

HAIR DESTROYER for removing superfluous hair on the face, neck, and arms. This great disfigurement of female beauty is effectually removed by this article, which is easily applied, and certain in effect. In Boxes, with directions for use, 3s. 6d. each. Sent free to any railway station, and may be had of Perfumers and Chemists, and of the proprietor, W. Gillingwater, 148, Holborn-bars, and 96, Goswell-road.

BALDNESS PREVENTED.—GILLINGWATER'S QUININE POMADE prepared with cantharides restores the hair in all cases of sudden baldness, or bald patches where no visible signs of roots exist, and prevents the hair falling off. In bottles 3s. 6d. and 5s. 6d. each. May be had of all Chemists and Perfumers, and of the proprietor, W. Gillingwater, 148, Holborn-bars, and 96, Goswell-road. Sent free to any railway station.

HAIR DYE! HAIR DYE! HAIR DYE! GILLINGWATER'S ATRAPILATORY is the best Hair Dye in England. Grey, red, or rusty hair dyed instantly a beautiful and natural brown or black without the least injury to hair or skin, and the ill effects of bad dyes remedied. Sold by all Chemists and Perfumers of repute, and by the proprietor, W. Gillingwater, 148, Holborn-bars, and 96, Goswell-road. Sent free to any railway station in the kingdom in cases, 3s. 6d., 5s. 6d., and 10s. 6d. each.

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N.B.—R. H. has accepted the agency for Dicoquemar's Melanogene, the best French Hair Dye, price 6s. and 10s. 6d. R. H. is a Wholesale Dealer in all goods used and sold by Hairdressers.

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DR. TWEEDALE'S HOP PILLS (containing the quintessence of the finest hops) have proved to be the greatest discovery of the age, as a perfect annihilator of the monster indigestion.

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Their action on the human system is gradually and mildly to expel from it all undigested accumulations and impurities; and then, when taken freely, so to saturate it with the antiseptic and tonic properties peculiar to the hop plant as to astonish the patient by his immunity from his old enemy.

These pills are supplied to the public (through agents only) by the Proprietor, Mr. F. A. Richardson, Long Ditton, Surrey, in boxes at 1s. 11d. and 2s. 9d. each; and may be had of all Dealers in Patent Medicines. London Agents: Messrs. F. Newbery and Sons, 45, St. Paul's Churchyard; and Mr. J. Sanger, 150, Oxford-street.

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